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FRONTISPIECE.



Metz del.

Hoath sculp.

Minerva congratulating a Youth for having, by Study, acquired the Knowledge of Writing Letters on the various Occurrences of Life, and for which Genius crowns him with a Wreath of Laurel, while Ignorance, ashamed of being seen, lies crouching at his Feet.

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Advice,	Duty,	Honour,	Negligence,	Shame,
Affection,	Education,	Hope,	Passion,	Sobriety,
Ambition,	Emulation,	Humanity,	Patience,	Solitude,
Anger,	Excellence,	Indiscretion,	Peevishness,	Temptation,
Avarice,	Fame,	Indolence,	Piety,	Trade,
Benevolence,	Fidelity,	Integrity,	Pleasure,	Truth,
Business,	Flattery,	Industry,	Politeness,	Variety,
Censure,	Folly,	Justice,	Pride,	Vice,
Charity,	Friendship,	Learning,	Prodigality,	Virtue,
Confidence,	Frugality,	Love,	Prudence,	Understanding,
Condolance,	Generosity,	Marriage,	Reproof,	Wisdom,
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By the Reverend JAMES WALLACE, D. D.

A N D

CHARLES TOWNSEND, A. M.

London; Printed for J. COOKE, No 17, PATER-NOSTER ROW.
[Price Bound Two Shillings.]

Every Man his own Lawyer:

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P R E F A C E.

THE importance and necessity of Letter-writing, as it relates to our social and commercial concerns in every rank and station of life, are so evidently apparent, as to stand universally confessed. Hence it becomes the duty and interest of every individual member of the community, to acquire a competent knowledge in an art which equally redounds to their credit and advantage.

The man of quality, the gentleman, the tradesman, the mechanic, the servant, indeed persons of all degrees and of all occupations, professions, and departments, have their respective and indispensable calls for the aid and assistance of Epistolary Correspondence; without which the intercourse of mankind must be greatly obstructed, and in some instances totally prevented.

Without commenting on the merits or imperfections of former attempts upon this very useful subject, the present is respectfully offered to the public as an improvement upon all preceding plans, from the obvious principles of brevity and universality.

In the method we have pursued, it has been our aim and endeavour to adhere to nature, character, sense and utility. By avoiding tedious prolixity on the one hand, in point of manner, we have been enabled to present greater variety in point of subject on the other; so that this single volume will be found to comprize near double the number of letters contained in almost any two, published heretofore.

From

From their perusal it is presumed the reader will derive every possible advantage, both as to style and subject; the former having been adapted with the utmost care to the respective occasions, and the latter appropriated with the most general regard, to the various occurrences of human life; by which means such a collection is produced as cannot fail of furnishing models, as to those essential requisites of communicating our sentiments with due propriety.

To facilitate practice by the aid of theory, we have prefixed a plain and concise grammar of our language, freed as much as possible from those technical terms, and redundant modes of definition, which tend rather to perplex than instruct: And for the entertainment, improvement, and perfection of the superior class, in social accomplishments, we have added a Treatise on Oratory, on the Art of speaking with Grace, Ease, and Elegance; and subjoined a brief Essay, with Rules and Maxims respecting Conversation in general, and the Requisites to form the polite and agreeable Companion.

Such is the nature of our plan; the execution is submitted to the candid public, from whose judgment there is no appeal, and whose encouragement has never been wanting to further any attempt to promote THE PUBLIC GOOD.

T H E

A
PLAIN and FAMILIAR
GRAMMAR;

OR,

An EASY GUIDE to the Knowledge of
THE ENGLISH TONGUE.

AS it is morally impossible for any person either to speak or write with propriety, unless, in some degree, acquainted with the rudiments of their native language; so we shall, in order to enable our readers to obtain that knowledge, and thereby express their sentiments with accuracy, introduce the following sheets with an explanation of the Principles of Grammar; by means of which, however difficult the composition required may be, they will be enabled to execute it with that propriety which must inevitably give satisfaction not only to themselves, but to those with whom they are connected.

Of GRAMMAR in general.

GRAMMAR, which consists of the art of speaking and writing any language with propriety, is divided into four grand parts, namely,

Orthography,	} of the art of	Spelling	} Words.
Profody,		Accenting and pronouncing	
Analogy,		Deriving and varying	
Syntax,		Forming words with a sentence.	

B

These

These four grand divisions comprehend every part of Grammar; and furnish certain rules for all that can be spoke or written.

Of ORTHOGRAPHY.

By Orthography we are taught to spell words properly; to effect which it must be considered, that syllables are formed of letters, and words of syllables.

A letter is a mark or character of a single sound in speech.

The English language contains twenty-six letters, namely,

a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q, r, s, t,
u, v, w, x, y, z.

Five of these letters are vowels, twenty consonants, and one, namely, y, partakes of the nature of each.

The five vowels are, a, e, i, o, u, each of which has a perfect sound of itself, without any other letter being joined to it.

The twenty consonants are, b, c, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, q, r, s, t, v, w, x, z.

A consonant is a letter that has not any perfect sound of itself, and therefore requires a vowel to be placed either before or after it.

The letter y is a vowel when it ends a syllable, as in *fly*; but a consonant when it begins a syllable, as in the word *yes*.

When two vowels meet together in a syllable, they are called diphthongs, as *ai* in the word *plai*ce; and when three meet together, they are called triphthongs, as *eau* in the word *beau*ty.

A syllable is a complete sound uttered in one distinct breath; as, *it*, *and*, *when*, *good*, *fine*, &c.

No syllable or word can possibly be formed without a vowel, either single or double; nor does any single syllable consist of more than eight syllables, as in the word *strength*.

A word of *one* syllable is called a monosyllable.

A word of *two* syllables, a disyllable.

A word of *three* syllables, a trisyllable.

And words of *many* syllables are called polysyllables.

There are four general rules for the true division of syllables, namely,

1. When a single consonant comes between two vowels, it must be joined to the latter; as in the words, *a-bove*, *a-mong*, *di-vide*, *ca-bal*, *de-cay*, &c.

To this rule, however, there is an exception with respect to the letters *x* and *w*, which must be always joined to the former vowel; as *x* in *ox-en*, and *w* in the word *vow-el*.

2. When two consonants meet in the middle of a word, they must always be divided; as in the words *plat-ter*, *cham-ber*, *mut-ton*, *but-ter*, *bar-gain*, &c.

3. If two or more consonants come together in the middle of a word, between two vowels, they must be placed according to the distinct sound, which generally happens to fall on the last syllable, as in the words *be-spread*, *re-store*, &c. In some cases, the first consonant in the division, must go with the first syllable; as in the words *con-struct*, *sub-tract*, *af-flict*, &c.

4. When two vowels meet in the middle of a word, if they make but one sound they must not be divided, as the two *ee*'s in the word *cheek*, which, having but one sound, form but one syllable. But, in general cases, they must be divided; as in the words *Li-on*, *Ri-ot*, *Li-ar*, *Tri-al*, &c.

Of PROSODY.

Prosody teaches us the manner of *accenting* and *pronouncing* words properly; to acquire the knowledge of which two things must be particularly attended to, viz. *quantity* and *accent*. Every syllable must be founded according to its proper *quantity*, and every word of two or more syllables according to its proper *accent*.

Quantity is the different measure used in pronouncing syllables, and is therefore *long* or *short*, which to each other bear the proportion of *two* to *one*; that is,

you ought to be twice as long in pronouncing a *long* syllable, as you are in pronouncing a *short* one.

The mark (◌) over a syllable shews it is short, and the mark (◌-) denotes it to be long; thus, in the word *rōb*, the vowel *o* is sounded short, but long in the word *rōbe*.

Accent is that peculiar stress of voice, which it is necessary to lay on any particular syllable in a word, without regarding whether that syllable is *long* or *short*, with respect to quantity.

The *accent* may relate to words of two or more syllables, and in some words is placed on the first syllable, while in others it falls on the last; as in the word *ál-der-man* the accent is upon the first syllable, but in the word *dis-ap-péar*, it is upon the last.

Of PUNCTUATION.

The *Stops* are used not only to mark the distance of time in pronouncing, but also to prevent any confusion or obscurity in the sense of the writer, whereby it may be the more readily distinguished and comprehended by the reader.

The number of stops are six, namely,

1. Comma	} marked thus {	(,)
2. Semicolon		(;)
3. Colon		(:)
4. Period		(.)
5. Note of interrogation		(?)
6. Note of admiration		(!)

The difference of time to be observed at the respective stops are as follow :

At a *comma* you must make a pause while you can deliberately say *one* ; at a *semicolon*, while you can say *one, two* ; at a *colon*, while you can say *one, two, three* ; at a *period*, while you can say *one, two, three, four*. At the *interrogation* and *admiration*, you must make a pause while you can count from *one* to *six*.

As a *comma* (,) is the least or shortest breathing stop, so it is oftener used than either of the others. It is properly placed after the names of numbers; as *one, two, three, four*; or after the names of persons, as *Thomas, William, John, &c.* or to divide a sentence where only a trifling pause is necessary; as, *he went to Bath, and drank the waters.*

A *semicolon* (;) requires double the pause of a comma, and should be used in the subdivision of the members of a sentence: as for example, *to-day I'll stay at home; but to-morrow I'll go abroad.*

A *colon*, (:) is used where the sense is perfect, but the sentence not finished: as, *If the enemy advances, I command you to give battle: if not, march strait to the capital.*

A *period* (.) is used to denote that the sentence is perfected; as, *Learning makes life sweet, and produces pleasure, tranquillity, glory, and praise.*

A *note of interrogation* (?) is always placed at the end of a question, and denotes an elevation of the voice, and rather a smartness in the pronunciation; as, *Will you lend me ten pounds? Will you grant me a favour?*

A *note of admiration* (!) is used after a word or sentence that expresses surprize or emotion; as, *O that villain! O wretched man! O that I had never been born!*

Though a proper attention to the respective stops will enable every person to read with propriety, yet there is another thing that must not pass unnoticed, and that is *emphasis*, which consists in laying a forcible stress of voice on some particular word in a sentence, in order to make the sense more striking. In short, it is to a word in a sentence, what accent is to a syllable in a word. Thus, if you say, *I will walk home*; if the emphasis is placed upon *I*, it means myself, and not any other person; if the emphasis is placed on *walk*, it insinuates I do not mean to ride; and if it is placed on *home*, it signifies it is *home* I intend to go, and not to any other place.

Of ANALOGY.

Analogy treats of the different kinds of words, and their derivation, change, or likeness to each other ; from the use of which we convey our notions or ideas of things, express our wants or feelings, and become social beings, by mutually communicating our sentiments.

Words admit of four distinct divisions, under the following titles, viz.

NAMES.

QUALITIES.

AFFIRMATIONS.

PARTICLES.

Of NAMES.

Names (which have been commonly called *nouns*, or *nouns substantives*) are words that express things themselves simply, without requiring the assistance of any other word to make us understand them, but convey a clear idea to the mind of themselves ; as *man*, *horse*, *boy*, &c.

There are three sorts of names, *common*, *proper*, and *personal*.

Common names are such as express a whole species, or kind ; as *man*, *horse*, *city* : for *man* is a name common for all *men* ; *horse*, for all *horses* ; and *city*, for all *cities*.

Proper names are such as particularly distinguish individual persons, or things, from others of the same species, or kind ; as *John* is not the name of all *men*, but of a particular *man* : *Poppit* is not the name of all *horses*, but of a particular *horse* ; and *London* is not the name of all *cities*, but of a particular *city*.

Personal names stand in the places of other names, in order to avoid a disagreeable repetition ; as *I* stands for *my name* ; *thou*, or *you*, for *your name* ; *he* and *she*, for *his* or *her name* ; and *it* stands for *names* which have no sex.

In

In these *names* there are three persons, the *first* of which is the person speaking; the *second* is the person spoken to; and the *third* is the person spoken of.

There are two numbers, namely, the *singular* and the *plural*. The *singular* number speaks of one, as *man*; the *plural* of more than one, as *men*.

The persons are used in both numbers; thus:

First person	I, or me	we, us
Second person	thou, or you	ye, or you
Third person	he, she, this, that	they, these, those.

Names have two genders, namely, *masculine* and *feminine*.

The *masculine* or *male* gender, supposes all things of the *male*, or *he* kind; as *man*, *horse*, *bull*.

The *feminine*, or *female* gender, expresses all things of the *female*, or *she* kind; as *woman*, *mare*, *cow*.

Some words leave the *gender*, or *sex*, in doubt, and, on that account, are said to be of the doubtful gender; such as *child*, *sparrow*, *rabbit*. These names require an additional word to explain them, and clear up to which sex they belong; as *male child*, *female child*; *cock sparrow*, *hen sparrow*; *buck rabbit*, *doe rabbit*.

Names that are inanimate, and have no life, are called *neuter names*, because they can have no sex; as, *stick*, *stone*, *table*, *chair*, &c.

Of QUALITIES.

Qualities, or, as they are generally called, *adjectives*, are words expressive of the *properties*, *affections*, or *qualities* of things; as, *good*, *bad*, *black*, *white*, &c.

The words which express *qualities* are distinguished by making sense with the word *thing* after them; as *good thing*, *bad thing*, *black thing*, *white thing*, &c.

Names are sometimes changed into the nature of qualities, as *man's nature*, for the *nature of man*; *Pope's Works*, for the *Works of Pope*; the *king's palace*, for the *palace of the king*. These are termed *possessive qualities*, and answer to the *genitive case* of the Latin: the possessive quality is the only case we have in English.

Some qualities are compared by degrees, which are called *degrees of comparison*. They are three in number; namely,

The { Positive
Comparative
Superlative } Degree.

The *positive degree* mentions a thing with respect to itself only; as, *black*.

The *comparative degree* compares it to something else; as, *blacker*.

The *superlative degree* expresses the utmost *increase of a quality*; as, *blackest*.

Of AFFIRMATIONS.

An *affirmation*, commonly called a *verb*, affirms one thing of another; as, I say of him, *he loves*. It likewise signifies *being*, as *I am*; *doing*, as *I fight*; or *suffering*, as *I am beaten*.

There are three different *times* in *affirmations*; namely, *the present*, *past*, and *future*; or things *now doing*, that *have been done*, or *will be done hereafter*: these are again sub-divided into the *time not perfectly past*, and the *time long past*.

The *present time* is the *affirmation* itself; as, *love*, *educate*.

The *past time* generally ends in *ed*; as *loved*, *educated*.

The *future time* is expressed by *shall*, *will*, *have*, before the *affirmation*.

The persons of affirmations are expressed by *I*, *thou*, *you*, *he*, *she*, *it*, *we*, *ye* or *you*, and *they*; and vary their endings in the second and third persons singular; as, *I fight*, *thou fightest*, *he fighteth*, or *fights*: but the plurals are always the same; as, *we fight*, *ye or you fight*, *they fight*.

As only the two *times* or *tenses*, are expressed by the affirmation itself, its other times, and manners, are denoted by the nine following words, *do*, *will*, *shall*, *may*,
can,

can, must, ought, have, am, or be, which are called helping affirmations.

Of PARTICLES.

Particles are words that denote some quality, manner, or circumstance of an action; join words or sentences together; or express some sudden turn, or passion, of the mind, or emotion of the heart.

Under this head are comprehended all those words which have been known, according to the division of the Latins, by the names of *adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections.*

The ADVERB signifies the manner of a verb or affirmation; as, *the boy reads WELL*: here the adverb, *well*, informs you in what manner the action was performed.

The particles called CONJUNCTIONS, join words and sentences together, and shew the manner of their dependence on each other; as, *Bob and I went to the Fair*. In which sentence the word *and* is a conjunction, and joins its two distinct parts together.

The Particles called PREPOSITIONS, denote some *circumstance of action*, and shew the relation of words to each other; as, *I'll go OVER the bridge*. Here the word *over* is the preposition, and denotes in what manner the person went.

The fourth, and last sort of *Particles*, called INTERJECTIONS, denote some sudden emotion or passion of the soul, and are independent of any other words; as, *Oh dear! Alas! Indeed! Ah! Hush! Hark! &c.*

Of SYNTAX;

Or the Composition or Construction of Sentences.

Syntax teaches us to join words together to form a sentence, or to join sentences together in order to form a discourse.

A sentence must contain at least one *affirmation*, and one *name*, of which something is affirmed; as, *God is just,*

just. This is called a *simple sentence*; but if we say *God is just, but man is unjust*, it is a *compound sentence*, as it contains two simple sentences joined together by the conjunction *but*.

The chief thing in the construction of sentences is to find the agreement between the *name* and *affirmation*, or their relation to each other; which is to be done by asking, *who is? what is? who does?* &c. Whatever word answers the question is the *name*, or *nominative word*, which agrees with, or relates to, the *verb* or *affirmation*; as, *the boy reads*. *Who reads?* answer, *the boy*: therefore *boy* is the *name, noun, or nominative word*, agreeing with, and relating to, the *affirmation, or verb, reads*.

An *affirmation, or verb*, must agree with its *nominative word* in *number* and *person*; as, *the man runs*. Here the nominative word *man* is the *third person singular*, because *man*, being only one, must be *singular*; and being neither the *person speaking*, nor *spoken to*, must be the *third person*, because he is the *person spoken of*: therefore the verb or affirmation *runs*, which agrees with this nominative verb, is the *third person singular*; thus,

Singular	{	I run	{	1st	} Person
		Thou runneth		2d	
		He runs		3d	

The *name of multitude* must be singular; as, *the crowd is great*, not *are great*, because it is but one crowd.

When two *singular names* are joined together by a conjunction, the *affirmation* must be plural: thus, *John and Tom are fighting*; not *John and Tom is fighting*.

When more *names* than one are connected in a sentence, the *verb* or *affirmation*, agrees in number with the nearest name; as, *nothing is wanting but guineas*.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS

FOR WRITING

LETTERS.

AS letters are the copies of conversation, when you sit down to write consider what you would say to your friend if he was present, and write down the very words you would speak, which will render your epistle unaffected and intelligible.

A careful attention to the plain and simple rules laid down in the preceding grammar, will enable the learner to write in the language of the present times; and, if he carefully avoids affectation, his thoughts will be clear, his sentiments judicious, and his language plain, easy, sensible, and suited to the nature of the subject.

In all letters express your meaning in as free and concise a manner as possible. Long periods may please the ear, but they perplex the understanding: a short style, and plain, strikes the mind, and fixes an impression; but a tedious one is seldom clearly understood, and never long remembered.

In letters concerning trade, the subject matter must be constantly kept in view, and the greatest perspicuity and brevity observed by the different correspondents; and in like manner these rules may be applied to all other subjects and conditions of life, viz. a comprehensive idea of the subject, and an unaffected simplicity and modesty in expression.

When you write to a person of distinction, or gentleman, let it be on gilt paper; and do not seal the letter itself, but inclose it in a cover, which you must seal instead of the letter, and write on it the superscription.

Begin your letter about two inches below the top of your paper, and leave about an inch margin on the left

hand; and what compliments, or services, you send in the letter, insert them rather in the body, or conclusion of it, than by way of postscript.

It is customary, among the polite, to sign their names at a considerable distance below the conclusion of the letter, and thereby leave a large vacancy over the name. This, however, should not be practised, for this reason, because 'tis putting it in the power of an ill-disposed person (should your letter happen to fall into such hands) to take an injurious advantage, by writing what he pleases over your name, and making you, in all appearance to have signed a writing you would by no means have set your hand to.

In writing either to your equals, or inferiors, be not too familiar or free in your style, lest it should make you appear contemptible: a proper degree of modesty should be preserved between all ranks of people, as by that means the subject-matter will be attended to with greater circumspection, and each will appear amiable in the eye of the other.

If your letter is so long as to consist of several paragraphs, begin every fresh paragraph at the same distance from the left-hand margin of the paper as when you began the subject of your letter. As you write on, be particularly careful in making the necessary stops, the neglect of which frequently occasions the sense and meaning of your letter to be unintelligible: and always put a period at the close of a paragraph. After you have finished the subject of your letter, conclude it with the same address you began it; as, *I am, Sir,* or *Madam;* or, *May it please your Grace, Lordship, Ladyship, &c.* and always subscribe your name in a larger hand than that in which you have written your letter.

Letters written to your superiors should, as we have already observed, be on fine gilt paper; but if to your equals or inferiors, you may write it on what sized paper you think proper: only remember this, that if it is to your superior, you must always seal it with wax; but if to inferior or equal, it may be done with a wafer.

After you have sealed your letter, write the superscription in the following manner, viz.

Begin

Begin the title or name of the person, about the middle or centre of it, and write the place of his abode in a line by itself at the bottom, thus :

William Johnson, Esq;

Salisbury,

Wilts.

Be not too particular in your direction of letters to persons who are well known, because it greatly lessens them by making them appear to be obscure, and not easily found.

If you direct to persons who are Honourable, either by family, or office, it is not only more proper, but much more polite, to direct without the title of Esq; than with it ; as for example :

To the Honourable Mr. Pembroke, not to the Honourable Christopher Pembroke, Esq; the latter of which would be absurd and ridiculous.

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T H E N E W
L E T T E R W R I T E R.

P A R T I.

Familiar Letters on BUSINESS.

L E T T E R I.

From a Shop-keeper in the Country, to a Tradesman in London, formerly his intimate Friend and Acquaintance.

S I R,

Southampton, Jan. 00.

THOUGH Providence has placed us many miles distant from each other, I flatter myself that friendship, which we contracted in our youth, is not in the least abated. I am happy to hear of your success in London, and it is with pleasure I can assure you that I am comfortably settled at this place. My returns, however, are slow, and my profits small; and therefore I am not in circumstances to defray the expences of repeated journies to London, in order to purchase goods at the best hand. Relying on your former friendship, I have presumed to solicit your assistance, to purchase, from time to time, such goods as I may happen to want from London, for which an order for payment shall be remitted on delivery. At present I have only sent for a few articles, as you will see by the inclosed. I doubt not of your getting them as good and cheap as possible; and

and if there is any thing I can do to serve you in this part of the country, you may depend on its being executed with the utmost fidelity and dispatch.

I am, Sir,

your sincere friend,

WILLIAM JENKINS.

L E T T E R II.

Answer to the foregoing.

S I R,

London, May 00.

I RECEIVED your's, and am exceeding glad to hear of your being so comfortably settled. It gives me the greatest pleasure, to think that I have it in my power to do any services for a person whom I so much respect. I have sent the goods you ordered by the Southampton waggon, directed for you. They are as good and cheap as any to be had in London, and I hope you will be a considerable gainer. I heartily thank you for your proffered services, and shall, as occasion requires, trouble you with something of that nature. In the mean time fail not to command me in every thing wherein I can serve you, as it will give the greatest pleasure to

Your sincere friend,

THOMAS OSBORN.

L E T T E R III.

From a young Man in the Country beginning Trade, to a Merchant in London, offering his Correspondence.

S I R,

Norwich, Aug. 00.

THE time of my apprenticeship with Mr. Williams of this city being expired, I am just going to begin for myself at Aylsham, having taken a shop there for that purpose. As I know the satisfaction you have always given to my master in your dealings, I make an offer to you of my correspondence, in expectation that you will use

use me as well as you have done him, in whatever goods I may want. This I the rather expect, as you cannot disoblige Mr. Williams by it, because of the great distance I shall be from him; and I shall endeavour to give you equal satisfaction with regard to my payments, &c. Your speedy answer, whether or not you are disposed to accept of my offer, will greatly oblige

your humble servant.

L E T T E R IV.

The Merchant's Answer.

S I R,

I Received your's of the 25th of August, and very cheerfully accept the favour you offer me. I shall take care to serve you in the best manner I am able, and on the same footing with Mr. Williams; not doubting but you will make as punctual returns as he does, which entitles him to a more favourable usage than could otherwise be afforded. I most sincerely wish you success in your undertakings, and am, Sir,
your obliged servant.

L E T T E R V.

From a Shop-keeper in the Country to a Tradesman in London, complaining of the Badness of his Goods.

S I R,

I T has ever been my fixed resolution, since I first corresponded with you, to act with integrity and honour; nor did I doubt but I should meet with the like treatment in return. I must, indeed, confess, that the goods you sent me for some time were as good as any I could purchase from another, and so far I had not any reason to complain. At present, however, the case is quite altered. The two last parcels you sent me are so exceeding bad, that I dare not offer them to my customers.

customers. From what cause this proceeds I know not; but I am obliged to tell you, that unless you send me better in their stead, I must either withdraw my correspondence, or shut up my shop. I beg your answer by return of post, as I am in immediate want of the goods, and in great danger of losing my customers by delay.

I am, Sir,

your friend and well-wisher.

L E T T E R VI.

The Tradesman's Answer.

S I R,

YOUR's I received, and am exceeding sorry to hear that the goods turned out so bad. I am sensible I had some such in my warehouse, but intended to have sold them at a low rate, and not to any of my fixed customers, particularly so valuable a correspondent as yourself. They were inadvertently sent you by some mistake of my servants, for which I am exceeding sorry; but, in order to make you amends, I have sent, by this day's waggon, the goods I originally intended you at my own expence. I hope you will excuse the accident that has happened; and be assured that as it is the first, so it shall be the last, as the strictest attention shall be paid to your future orders by

your most respectful

and obliged servant.

L E T T E R VII.

From a young Tradesman in the Country, to a capital Dealer in London, on the latter making an unexpected Demand on him for Money.

S I R,

NOT having the least apprehension of your hasty demand, I must confess I am not prepared to answer it. I am sensible that the stated credit in this article

ticle used to be only four months ; but as it has been a custom to allow a farther time, and as this is only the day of the old time being expired, I have not yet prepared myself. I beg you will not suppose it is any deficiency, more than for the present, that occasions my requesting a short time of you, and I shall not ask any more than is usual among the trade. If you think proper to let your servant call for one-half of the sum this day, and the remainder in a fortnight after, it shall be ready. If you have any particular cause for insisting on it sooner, be pleased to let me know, and I will endeavour to borrow the money ; for though I may want credit from you, I cannot suppose I have lost it with all the world. I am, Sir,

your humble servant.

L E T T E R VIII.

The Answer.

S I R,

I Am exceeding sorry to press you on the present occasion ; but be assured, it is not from any disrespect to you that I have made the demand. I have my reasons ; and although it is not always either fair or prudent to mention them, yet you will give me leave to ask the following question : Whether you have any dealings with an usurer in Bread-street, and what is his name ? If you give me satisfaction on this head, I shall not urge the demand I have made upon you sooner than the time you mention. I beg your answer by the bearer ; and am, Sir,

your friend and well-wisher.

L E T T E R IX.

From a Tradesman in London to his Correspondent in the Country, requesting the Payment of a Sum of Money.

S I R,

THE balance of accounts between us has been long standing in my favour ; notwithstanding which I would not have applied to you at present, had not

not a very unexpected demand been made upon me for a considerable sum, which, without your assistance, is not in my power to answer. When I have an opportunity of seeing you, I will then inform you of the nature of this demand, and the necessity of discharging it. I hope you will excuse me this freedom, which nothing but a regard to my credit and family could have obliged me to take. If it does not suit you at present to remit the whole, such a part as you can spare will be very acceptable to, Sir,

your very humble servant.

L E T T E R X.

The Answer.

S I R,

I Received your's, and am sorry to hear you are so greatly distressed for cash. I should have settled with you some time ago, had it not been for the failure of two of my principal creditors. I have just received a remittance from Chester, and am very happy it is in my power to answer the whole of your demand. The balance between us is 220l. for which I have sent inclosed an order on Mr. Williams the banker. I hope, by the assistance of this, you will surmount every difficulty, which will give the greatest satisfaction to

your sincere friend and well-wisher.

L E T T E R XI.

From a Shopkeeper in the Country, to a Tradesman in London, apologizing for not being able to make good his Payments.

S I R,

TH E note I gave you some time ago is now nearly due; and I am sorry to inform you, that although I have considerable sums in good hands, yet I cannot expect the receipt of any thing material these three weeks,

which

which is all the time I require. It is the first favour of the kind I ever asked, and I hope I shall not have occasion to repeat it in future. I am really distressed for your answer; but as a proof of my sincerity, I have enclosed three notes subscribed by persons well known to yourself, and although they exceed my debt, yet I have no objection to your keeping them as a security till due. An answer from you by the next post after the receipt of this will be esteemed not only a favour, but an obligation conferred on

Your humble servant.

L E T T E R XII.

The Tradesman's Answer.

S I R,

I Received your letter the day after it was written, which was exceeding fortunate, as I was to have paid away your note to-morrow, and I could not have had an opportunity of recalling it in time to have served you. It was certainly imprudent in you not to communicate the news to me sooner, as your credit might have been greatly affected by such a negligence. However, I impute it to your unwillingness to reveal the state of your affairs, and shall keep the note in my hands till it becomes due. I have returned the notes you inclosed, not doubting but you will send me the money at the time appointed, which will greatly oblige

your friend and well-wisher.

L E T T E R XIII.

From a Tradesman in distressed Circumstances to one of his Creditors, requesting a Letter of Licence.

S I R,

YOU are sensible I have dealt with you upwards of twelve years, during the whole of which time you well know my payments have been regular. I am
sorry

sorry my affairs are so perplexed at present, that it is not in my power to comply with the just demands of my creditors, nor even to pay them any thing until my affairs are settled. On this account, Sir, I have sent to you, requesting a letter of licence for only twelve months, in which time I hope to be able to settle my affairs to the satisfaction of all parties; but if they will not comply with this request, I must be infallibly ruined. Your answer is impatiently expected by, Sir,
your obedient humble servant.

L E T T E R XIV.

The Answer.

S I R,

I Received your's, and am exceeding sorry to hear that your circumstances are so distressed. In order to comply with your request, I have called a meeting of the creditors, and doubt not but they will agree to a proposal so fair and reasonable. I shall send you the earliest intelligence of the issue, and am, Sir,
your real friend and well-wisher.

L E T T E R XV.

From one Friend to another, requesting the Loan of a Sum of Money.

S I R,

RELYING on our long and disinterested friendship, and the sense you have hitherto possessed of my principles, I thus presume to request the loan of 50l. for a month, provided you can spare that sum without injuring yourself. I have been disappointed, and pressed for money at the same time, which, though an unlucky, is not an uncommon circumstance. Believe me, I would not have asked this favour, were I not certain of being able to return it at the time mentioned. However, if it should be inconvenient to you to spare the money, or to be so long without it, I beg you will freely tell me so by return of post; and it will be conceived in its proper light by, Sir,

your most respectful

and sincere well-wisher.

L E T-

LETTER XVI.

The Answer.

Worthy Friend,

HAD I known you had been in want of the sum mentioned in your letter, I should never have put your unaffected modesty to the blush, by suffering you to ask it. No, Sir, the offer should have come from myself. I have sent the sum by the bearer; but let me beg, that if you consider me really as your friend, you will suit the payment to your own circumstances, without confining yourself to a particular time; and not only so, but that you will likewise command me in every thing else wherein I can serve you. That you may think me sincere, I have hereby given you permission to draw on me to the amount of 200l. or for any less sum, to be returned at such a time, or in such a manner as shall be most convenient to you.

I am, Sir,

your sincere friend and well-wisher.

LETTER XVII.

From a Tradesman in London, to a Shop-keeper in the Country, chastising him for Remissness of Payment.

Mr. Roberts,

I Am compelled, by the exigence of my affairs, thus importunately, nay peremptorily, to write to you. How can you think it possible to carry on business in the manner you act by me? You know what promises you have made, and how, from time to time, you have broken them. If you think you can trespass more on me than you can on others, it is paying a very bad compliment to my prudence or your gratitude; for surely good usage is entitled to the same in return. I can as readily make an allowance for disappointments as any one; but can a man be disappointed for ever? Trade is so dependent a thing that it cannot be carried
on

on without mutual punctuality. Does not the merchant expect payment from me for the goods I have sent you? And can I make a return to him without receiving it from you? Indeed, Sir, this will never do. I must be more punctually used by you, or else must deal as little punctually with others; and then what must be the consequence? In short, Sir, I expect a handsome payment by the next return, and proper security for the remainder. I am very unwilling to take any harsh measures to procure justice to myself, my family and creditors; and most sincerely hope I shall be prevented from taking any such step by your proper compliance with the above.

I am, as I shall remain (if it be not your own fault)

your sincere friend and servant.

L E T T E R XVIII.

The Shop-keeper's Answer.

S I R,

THE lenity you have repeatedly shewn, I acknowledge with the most heart-felt gratitude; and my being obliged to disappoint you so often, has given me the most inexpressible uneasiness. Be assured, I am not so ungrateful as my conduct may have given you reason to imagine. From the state of my accounts you will find, that the greatest part of my property is in the hands of country dealers, who, though they seldom fail, yet their times of payment are very precarious and uncertain. However, to convince you of my integrity, I have sent, by this day's post, an order for 50*l*. Next week you shall receive one much larger; and the remainder shall be sent in a very short time. To convince you farther of my integrity, the goods which I order till the old account is paid off, shall be for ready money. I doubt not but you will continue to treat me with the same good usage as formerly, and believe me to be

your very obliged humble servant.

L E T.

L E T T E R XIX.

From a Tradesman in the Country, greatly in Debt, to one of his principal Creditors in London, requesting the Acceptance of a Composition.

S I R,

LITTLE did I think, when I first entered into business, that ever I should be under the necessity of writing to you on so disagreeable a subject; but experience convinces me it is much better to acknowledge the state of my affairs to my creditors, than put them to the expence of taking out a commission of bankruptcy. To you, therefore, Sir, as the principal person to whom I am indebted, do I address myself on this melancholy occasion, and must freely acknowledge, that my affairs are very greatly perplexed. The variety of different articles I have been obliged to sell on credit, and the losses sustained thereby, always kept me in low circumstances; and often, when I paid you money, I had not any left for the support of my family. If you will be pleased to employ any prudent person to examine my books, I doubt not but you will be convinced, that the whole of my conduct has been consistent with the strictest rules of honesty. If it shall appear so to you (as I fear not but it will) I must beg you will be pleased to call a meeting of my creditors, lay my case before them, and every thing remaining shall be delivered up.

When the whole is settled, I hope you will accept of the composition, whatever it may be, as it is not in my power to do any more at present; and that you will consider me as a person, whose misfortunes call for pity instead of resentment.

I am, Sir,

your obliged (but distressed) humble servant.

L E T T E R XX.

The Answer.

S I R,

BELIEVE me when I tell you, it was with the greatest concern I perused your affecting letter; and I should think myself very cruel indeed, if I did not readily comply with your request. I have employed a very worthy person, a friend of mine, to examine your books, the result of which shall be immediately laid before the other creditors; and if your affairs are as you represent, you need not be afraid of severe usage. I have ever considered you as a person of strict integrity, and am therefore determined to do every thing that lays in my power to serve you. I have sent you a trifle, supposing it will be of service to you at this time; and when your affairs are settled, I shall not hesitate to give you fresh credit. I am,

your sincere friend and well-wisher.

L E T T E R XXI.

From one Friend to another, generously offering him Assistance, on his having sustained great Losses by the Failure of a Correspondent.

Dear Sir,

I Take this earliest opportunity of condoling with you on the loss I am informed you have sustained by the failure of Mr. Jenkins. I hope you bear your misfortunes like the man of prudence you have always shewn yourself, and as one who knows how liable all men in trade are to such accidents. As I am really desirous of giving you consolation, I cheerfully offer my service to answer any present demand, and you are at liberty to draw upon me to the amount of 200l. which you may have the use of for a twelvemonth or more, if your affairs require it. Your accepting of this offer will give great pleasure to

your most sincere friend.

L E T T E R

L E T T E R XXII.

The Answer.

My worthy Friend,

I Know not how to express the sense I retain of your generous and benevolent offer. My loss, indeed, is heavy, but I find I have a friend who is not only capable, but willing to make it light. I thankfully accept of a part of your generous offer, and am ready to give you my bond for 100l. payable in a year. This sum is all I shall have occasion for; and if I was not certain of being able to return it, I would not accept of your offer.

I am, worthy Sir,
your most faithful and obliged humble servant.

L E T T E R XXIII.

From a Merchant's Clerk in London, to his Master in the Country.

S I R,

AS you have been from your family longer than was expected, I thought it my duty to acquaint you that we are all well at home, and to assure you, that your business has been carried on with the same care and fidelity as if you were present. We all wish for your return as soon as your affairs will permit; and it is with pleasure that I take this opportunity of subscribing myself, Sir,

your most obedient and faithful servant.

L E T T E R XXIV.

The Merchant's Answer.

Mr. Benson,

I Received your's this day, am glad to hear you are all well, and that my absence does not interrupt my business. Shall be in town in a few days, when I will

endeavour, (as I think I have hitherto done) to make your situation (as well as the rest of my domestics) as comfortable as can be expected in a state of servitude.

I am, your affectionate master.

L E T T E R XXV.

From a young Man in the Country, on the Death of his Master, to the Tradesman with whom he dealt in London.

S I R,

YOU must certainly, before this, have heard of my late worthy master's death. I have served him as apprentice and journeyman upwards of twelve years; and as my mistress does not chuse to carry on the business, I have taken the shop and stock in trade, and shall be glad to deal with you in the same manner he did. I have sent the inclosed order for payment of such bills as are due, and you may depend on punctuality with respect to the remainder, for which purpose let them be entered as my debt. Be pleased to send the inclosed order, and you will greatly oblige
your humble servant.

L E T T E R XXVI.

The Tradesman's Answer.

S I R,

I Received your's, and am exceeding sorry to hear of the death of my good friend, your late master; but at the same time I am pleased to find that his business has fallen into such good hands. You have double advantage over a stranger, as you are well acquainted both with your late master's trade and customers, which, by his dealings with me, appear to be very extensive. I heartily thank you for your offered correspondence, have sent the goods agreeable to your order, and shall, on all occasions, treat you in a manner that is due from one tradesman to another. I wish you success in your undertakings, and am, with great respect,
your obliged, humble servant.

L E T.

LETTER XXVII.

From a Merchant at Madrid, to his Friend in London, desiring him to dispose of some Goods, and to send him others in their Stead.

S I R,

ACCORDING to the agreement between us before I left England, I have sent, by the Dispatch, captain Hervey, twelve bales of raw silk, marked B M, desiring you to dispose of them to the best advantage. They are warranted good, as I examined every parcel separately before they were sent on board. You will receive an inclosed order for several different articles of British manufactures, to be sent by the first ship that sails for this port. I beg you will let them be of as good quality as can be procured, and make no delay in sending them, as they are greatly wanted.

I am, Sir,
your obliged humble servant.

LETTER XXVIII.

The Answer.

S I R,

I Received your's, and the twelve bales, marked B M, were delivered at the Custom-house. I immediately advertised them for sale at Garraway's coffee-house, in twelve different lots, but they were all purchased by an eminent manufacturer for 940 l. which I have lodged in the Bank in your name. I have likewise shipped, on board the Charming Sally, captain Johnson, the different articles you ordered. They are in twenty bales, marked A Z. I am told that they are the best that can be had in London, and doubt not but they will give you satisfaction.

I am, Sir,
your humble servant.

L E T T E R XXIX.

*From a Gentleman at Lincoln, to his Friend in London,
requesting him to transact some Business for him.*

S I R,

AS your situation requires a constant attendance on the quay, I shall esteem it a favour if you will purchase a pipe of port wine, and a puncheon of rum, and send them to me by the readiest conveyance. The charges shall be immediately defrayed, and the obligations properly acknowledged by
your sincere friend.

L E T T E R XXX.

The Answer.

S I R,

I Have purchased the articles you requested, and sent them to the Lincoln waggon, which sets out this day. I am happy in having the opportunity of doing you any service; and beg, that whatever you may want hereafter, that is in my power to execute, you will not hesitate to command,
your's sincerely.

L E T T E R XXXI.

From a young Student at the University, to a very distant Relation, begging his Assistance in the Loan of a small Sum of Money.

S I R,

WERE I not conscious that my own conduct does not bear any part in the melancholy occasion of these lines, I should not thus intrude on your kindness. Bereft of an affectionate parent, and, with him, of the means necessary for the prosecution of my studies, I can have no other prospect, if not assisted by
some

some benevolent hand, than that penury which must result to every one in my situation from want of friends, and consequently want of preferment. I know you are so distant a relation, that I have not any right to expect a favour from you on that account; but I have often heard my father mention your name, and always with the greatest respect. If you entertain the same remembrance of him that he always did of you, and if your fortune is so considerable as I am informed, perhaps you will not only pardon the present application, (as strange as it may seem from one whom you never saw) but comply with my request of advancing me the sum of 20*l*. which will answer all my present demands; and, perhaps, before new difficulties fall upon me, I may find some friend to relieve me farther. I have only to beg, Sir, that if you do not chuse to comply with my request, you will not be offended at my presumptive application; for, believe me, there is not any thing I would endeavour more carefully to avoid, than that of offending those whom my father valued. I am, Sir, with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

L E T T E R XXXII.

The Gentleman's Answer.

Young Man,

I Received your's, and from the stile in which you address me, you appear to be wholly unacquainted with the respect I bear to the memory of your worthy father, whose generosity was the original cause of my prosperity. Constrained, therefore, by every tie of gratitude, I have ordered the sum you request to be paid to the stage-coachman, who will deliver it carefully to you. I beg you will let me know the nature of your affairs at college, and whatever is necessary you shall most willingly receive from me. Look no farther for a friend, for you shall want no other. When the vacation commences, let my house be your home; and hereafter consider yourself as my son. A wise re-

striction from your father prevented me from committing an indiscretion that would, in all probability, have proved my ruin ; but little did he think that, by so doing, he was providing a father for a destitute son of his own. Pray write to me again immediately, and satisfy your mind with the agreeable reflection that you have

A real friend.

L E T T E R XXXIII.

From a young Man, who had an Opportunity of setting up in Business, but destitute of Money, to a Gentleman of reputed Benevolence.

Honoured Sir,

I Doubt not, when you look at the subscription of this letter, but you will recollect my serving you with goods when I was apprentice to Mr. Roberts, grocer, in Cheapside. I have been upwards of two years out of my apprenticeship, which time has been spent in Mr. Roberts's service, and the greatest part of my wages has been converted to the support of an aged mother confined to a sick bed. Mr. Roberts died about ten days ago, and having no family, his executors, who are almost strangers to me, are going to lett the shop. My worthy master has left me 100l. in his will, but that is not sufficient to purchase the stock in trade ; nor will the executors give any longer credit than twelve months. I have often heard of your willingness to serve the distressed, particularly young people beginning the world. If you will be pleased to advance 100l. on my bond, payable in a limited time, it shall be as safe as if in the hands of your banker ; and I shall acknowledge your kindness with gratitude so long as I live. I hope this will not give any offence ; and if you approve of it, I will wait on you with one of the executors, that you may hear their proposals. Be assured, Sir, the whole of my time shall be employed in the closest attendance to the duties of my station, that thereby I may have it in my power to acknowledge

knowledge those favours, which, it is humbly hoped, you will be pleased to confer on,

Your most obedient, humble servant.

L E T T E R XXXIV.

The Gentleman's Answer.

S I R,

YOUR's I received, and from the unaffected manner in which you express yourself, I am strongly inclined to comply with your request, and hope your honest endeavours will be attended with success. You need not give yourself the trouble of calling on me, lest it should interfere with your business. I will either call on you to-morrow, or send a friend to enquire into the particulars. Remember, trade is of a very precarious nature, and if not attended to with assiduity and regularity, generally involves those engaged in the greatest difficulty, if not ruin. Let me beg, therefore, that when you become a master, you will avoid mixing in company with those who spend their time in the fashionable follies of the present age, such practices being totally inconsistent with the business of a tradesman. Though I have no fears concerning your integrity, yet the best of men cannot be too often reminded of their duty. I am, Sir,

Your sincere well-wisher.

L E T T E R XXXV.

To a Person of Eminence, in Acknowledgment of Benefits received.

Honoured Sir,

BE pleased to accept my most grateful acknowledgments for the distinguished favours you have been pleased to confer on me. It shall be the business of my life, to the utmost of my power, to deserve it; and my whole family, which you have made happy by your bounty, will every day join with me in prayers to God, to bless you with the continuance of your valuable

luable health, a long life, and all worldly honour; for so it will become us to do, for the very great favours conferred on, honoured Sir,

Your most dutiful servant.

L E T T E R XXXVI.

On the same Subject.

Worthy Sir,

I Should appear ungrateful indeed, if I did not add this farther trouble to those I have already given you, in acknowledging your goodness to me in this last instance of it. May Providence reward you, Sir, for the great benefits you have conferred on me, and may he give me the opportunity, by my future services and conduct, to testify that sense of gratitude which will be ever due from

Your obliged and dutiful servant.

L E T T E R XXXVII.

From a Tenant to his Landlord, apologizing for Delay of Payment.

I Am under great concern that I cannot at present answer your just expectations. I have sustained such heavy losses, and met with such great disappointments of late, that I must beg your indulgence one quarter longer. At the expiration of that time, you may depend on hearing more to your satisfaction than at present, from, Sir,

Your obliged and most humble servant.

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

The Landlord's Answer.

S I R,

I Am so fully convinced of your integrity, that I beg you will rest perfectly satisfied concerning your present request. I shall not make any demand on you
for

for rent till it suits you to pay it; being fully satisfied you will not let the opportunity slip, when you have it in your power to fulfil your promise. I am, Sir,
Your's, sincerely.

L E T T E R XXXIX.

From a Country Tenant, on the same Occasion.

Honoured Sir,

THE season has been so bad, and I have had such unhappy accidents to encounter with in a sick family, loss of cattle, &c. that I am obliged to trespass on your patience a month or two longer. The wheat harvest, I hope, will furnish me with the means of answering your just expectations, which will give the greatest satisfaction to

Your honest tenant, and humble servant.

L E T T E R XL.

The Answer.

Mr. Jacobs,

FROM the whole of your conduct since you have been my tenant, which is now upwards of ten years, I always considered you in the same light I do at present, that is to say, as an industrious and honest man. I beg, therefore, you will make yourself perfectly easy with respect to the payment of your rent. I shall come into the country some time in the summer, when I doubt not but you will acquit yourself in such a manner as will give ample satisfaction to

Your's, &c.

L E T T E R XLI.

To a Friend, in Compliance with his Request to borrow a Sum of Money.

S I R,

YOU have highly obliged me in the request you make. I most chearfully comply with it, and have inclosed a note for the required sum. Believe me,

I am not a little pleased at the thoughts of its being in my power to shew you how much I am,
 your faithful friend and servant.

L E T T E R XLII.

Another on the same Subject, limiting the Re-payment to a certain Time.

S I R,

TH E intimation you give me, that the sum of 50l. will be of great use to you, and that you shall be able to repay it in four months, makes me resolve to oblige you, though it will be attended with some difficulty. I have accordingly inclosed a Bank note to that amount. But I must, in the name of friendship, beg of you to return it to me unused, if you think you shall not be able to keep your word in the re-payment; for my accommodating you with this sum is rather, at present, a testimony of my inclination, than ability, to serve you. I am
 your affectionate friend and servant.

L E T T E R XLIII.

To a Friend, who had promised to lend a Sum of Money, to answer a critical Exigence, and postponed fulfilling his Promise to the last.

Worthy Friend,

YO U were so kind as to tell me, a fortnight ago, that you would lend me 100l. on my bond, to answer a demand that would otherwise greatly injure my credit. You was likewise pleased to say, you would have me look no farther, and that I should certainly have it in time. I have looked no farther, Sir, and the day of payment approaching, you cannot imagine how my mind has suffered by being not absolutely sure of having the money to answer the demand. I hope, Sir, nothing has happened to make you alter your mind; for, at this short notice, I shall not know where
 to

to apply to raise it. In the utmost perturbation of mind, for fear of the worst, my credit being wholly at stake, I beg your answer, which I hope will be to the satisfaction of, Sir,

your very obliged, humble servant.

L E T T E R XLIV.

The Gentleman's Answer.

Dear Sir,

YOU may depend upon it I will attend you this afternoon, with the money, which, ever since I promised, I have had great pleasure in the thought of supplying you with. I am most heartily vexed with myself, for giving you the pain and uneasiness that must have attended a mind so reflecting as your's, and in a case so critically circumstanced: but I hope you will forgive me, though I can hardly forgive myself. I am, Sir, as well on this, as on any other occasion in my power,

Your sincere friend and well-wisher.

L E T T E R XLV.

An Excuse to a Person who wants to borrow Money.

SIR,

I Am very sorry that your request comes to me at a time, when I am so pressed by my own affairs, that I cannot, with any convenience, comply with it. I must therefore beg, Sir, that you will excuse

your most humble servant.

L E T T E R XLVI.

On the same Subject.

SIR,

I Have, on an urgent occasion, been obliged to borrow a sum of money myself within ten days past. Hence you will judge of my want of capacity, rather than inclination, to comply with your request. For I am

your sincere friend.

L E T.

L E T T E R XLVII.

Recommending a Man-Servant.

S I R,

HAVING experienced the integrity and ability of the bearer, in a series of five years servitude, I can take upon me to recommend him to your family as qualified for the business he undertakes; and doubt not but your employing him will tend to your mutual advantage. I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

L E T T E R XLVIII.

The Answer.

S I R,

I Received your obliging letter in recommendation of the young man, and in consequence of that, have taken him into my family. I doubt not, from what you say, of his giving satisfaction, and you may be assured of his being treated with humanity, and rewarded according to his merit. I am, Sir,

your humble servant.

T H E

T H E N E W
L E T T E R W R I T E R.

P A R T II.

Relative Letters on the most common Occasions in Life.

L E T T E R XLIX.

From a Youth at School, to his Father.

Honoured Sir,

I Am thoroughly sensible of the many great favours I have repeatedly received from your hands; and all I have to hope is, that the progress I make in my learning will be no disagreeable return for the same. Gratitude, duty, and a view of future advantages, all contribute to point out to me how much I ought to labour for my own improvement and your satisfaction, and to shew myself, upon all occasions,

Your most obedient, and ever dutiful Son.

L E T T E R L.

From an Apprentice in London, to his Parents in the Country.

Honoured Father and Mother,

THESE lines will inform you that I am well in health, and perfectly satisfied both with my master and mistress. By what I have hitherto seen of the business, I like it exceedingly, and do intend to use my utmost

utmost endeavours to make myself master of every thing belonging to it. In doing this I shall have a treble satisfaction; first, in pleasing my master; secondly, in pleasing my friends; and thirdly, in benefiting myself. I have but little leisure, nor do I want a great deal; but will take every opportunity of letting you know how I go on, and that I am, with gratitude,

Your ever dutiful and obedient Son.

L E T T E R L I.

From a young Gentleman, Clerk to a Merchant in London, to his Father in the Country, soliciting an Increase of Pocket-money.

Honoured Sir,

IT is now some days since I last wrote to you; and not having received an answer, gives me great uneasiness. Though I have been as good an œconomist as possible, yet I find the pocket-money you allowed me to take monthly from Mr. Johnson, the linen-draper, is not at present sufficient to support my necessary expences. Be assured, Sir, I abhor every sort of extravagance as much as you can desire, and the small matter I ask as an addition to your former allowance, is only to promote my own interest, which, I am fully convinced, you have as much at heart as any parent possibly can. My master will satisfy you, that my conduct has been consistent with the strictest rules of morality. I did not chuse to mention my want of money to Mr. Johnson, and for that reason have not taken any thing more than what you at first ordered. I hope you will not be offended with what I have written, as I shall always consider myself happy in performing my duty, and acquiring the favour and respect of my valuable parents. I am, honoured Sir,

Your affectionate and dutiful Son.

L E T-

L E T T E R LII.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Child,

TH E reason of my not answering your letter sooner was, I had been on a journey to your uncle at Liverpool, where I was detained longer than I expected, and therefore did not receive your letter till last night. I have considered your request, and am convinced it is entirely reasonable. You are much mistaken, if you think I intended confining you to the sum hitherto paid by Mr. Johnson. No; it was indeed, inadvertency, and from my constant residence in the country, not being properly acquainted with the customs of London. I do not desire to confine you to any particular sum. You are now arrived at an age, when it becomes absolutely necessary for you to be well acquainted with the value of money: your profession likewise requires it. Inclosed, is an unlimited order for money on Mr. Johnson, and I doubt not, but you will make use of it with prudence and discretion.

I am, my dear Child,

Your affectionate Father.

L E T T E R LIII.

From an Apprentice to his Uncle, relative to a Fraud committed by his Fellow-apprentice on their Master.

Dear Uncle,

TH E uneasiness I at present labour under is much greater than I am able to express. My fellow-apprentice, for whom I had a great regard, and from whom I have received many civilities, has involved me in the deepest affliction. I am unwilling to tell you, and yet I must not conceal it, that he has forfeited the confidence reposed in him, by a breach of trust, to which he ungenerously gained my consent by a pretence I did not in the least suspect. What must I do? my master is defrauded: if I discover the injury, I am sure to ruin

ruin a young man I would wish to think possessed of some merit: if I conceal the injustice, I must at present share the guilt, and hereafter be partaker of the punishment. I am in the greatest distress of mind imaginable, and beg your advice, as you value the peace of

Your dutiful, though unfortunate Nephew.

L E T T E R LIV.

The Uncle's Answer.

Dear Nephew,

THE letter I have just now received from you gives me great uneasiness. As any delay in the discovery may be attended with consequences which will probably be dangerous to yourself, and disagreeable to all who belong to you, I charge you, if you value your own happiness, and my peace, to acquaint your master instantly with the injustice that has been done him. This will be the only means of vindicating your own innocence, and preventing your being looked upon as an accomplice in a fact, to which I most sincerely wish you may not be found to have been too far consenting. With respect to the unhappy young man who has been guilty of so fatal an indiscretion, I wish, if the known clemency and good-nature of your master may pardon this offence, he may let his forgiveness teach him the ingratitude and inhumanity of injuring a man, who is not only the proper guardian of his youth, but whose goodness deserves the best behaviour, though he be generous enough to excuse the worst. Let not a minute pass after you receive this, before you reveal the matter to your master: for I am in hopes that your application to me, and your following my advice, will greatly plead in your behalf. I will very speedily call on your master; and am, as far as an honest regard for you can make me,

Your loving Uncle.

L E T-

L E T T E R LV.

From a young Apprentice to his Father, informing him of his Situation in Servitude.

Honoured Sir,

IT will, no doubt, give both you and my mother equal satisfaction, when I inform you, that I am well in health, and perfectly satisfied with the situation in which I am placed. I like my business exceeding well, and as my master, seeing my diligence, puts me forward, I hope, in time, I shall answer your good wishes and expectations, and make a proper return for the indulgence you have always shewn me. There is such good order in the family, that every servant, as well as myself, knows his duty, and does it with pleasure. My master is a very honest, worthy man, and every body speaks well of him. My mistress is a chearful, sweet-tempered woman, and rather heals breaches than widens them. In short, Sir, if any thing can add to my present happiness, it will be the continuance of your's, and my good mother's prayers, for, Honoured Sir,
Your dutiful and obliged Son.

L E T T E R LVI.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Child,

THE contents of your letter has given the greatest satisfaction both to me and your mother. Your future felicity will depend entirely on your own conduct, which I hope will be such as to give pleasure to your master, and thereby produce credit to yourself. A proper assiduity to your business, and an agreeable deportment, will ever gain you esteem, and make you noticed by those who may, perhaps, hereafter be valuable friends. I have only to add, that nothing on my part shall be wanting to contribute to your felicity; and, that you may rest assured of ever finding in me

An affectionate Father.

L E T-

L E T T E R LVII.

*From a young Woman just gone to Service in London, to
her Mother in the Country.*

Dear Mother,

IT can be no less pleasure for you to be informed, than it is for me to tell, that I am exceedingly happy in my situation. My master and mistress are both worthy people, and greatly respected by all their neighbours. For some short time after I came here, I thought every thing strange, and wondered to see such multitudes of people in the streets; but I begin now to be more reconciled to my state, more especially as I am sensible you were not able to support me longer at home. The kind advice you gave me at parting, I shall endeavour to practise as long as I live. I beg you will let me hear from you as often as opportunity offers, as that will be the completion of all enjoyments the world can bestow on

Your affectionate and dutiful Daughter.

L E T T E R LVIII.

The Mother's Answer.

My dear Child,

IReceived your's, and am exceeding happy to find you are so well situated. I hope you will make your mind perfectly easy, more especially when you reflect, that it was for your good we parted. I doubt not but the family you are in will treat you very kindly, having reason to imagine so from the good character I have had of them. Whatever you do, my daughter, be careful of any attempt that may be made on your virtue: be obliging to all in the family, and never hesitate to give what assistance lays in your power to your fellow-servants. If you have any time to spare from your business, I beg you will spend some part of it in reading your Bible and the Whole Duty of Man. I pray for you daily, and there is nothing I wish for more than

than your happiness. Remember, that the more faithful you are in the discharge of your duty as a servant, the better you will prosper if you live to have a family of your own. Your father desires his blessing, and your brothers and sisters their kind loves to you. That heaven may bless you, my dear child, and that you may be a comfort to us all, is the most hearty wish of

Your affectionate Mother.

L E T T E R LIX.

From a Youth who had eloped from his Apprenticeship, to his Father, requesting him to intrude with his Master to admit him again into his Service.

Honoured Sir,

IT is with shame, arising from a consciousness of guilt, that I have presumed to write to you the following epistle. You have heard, no doubt, of the impropriety of my conduct, and the irregularities I have for some time practised, the unwisely following of which has induced me to desert the service of one of the best of masters. Filled with the deepest contrition, and sensible of my folly and ingratitude, I most sincerely wish to return; and know not a more powerful advocate to intercede for me than my honoured, though justly offended parent. It was the allurements of vicious company that first tempted me to forsake the paths of virtue, and neglect my duty in a family where I was treated even with parental tenderness. Fully sensible of my fault, I am willing to make every reparation in my power, but I know not of any other method than that of acting diametrically opposite to my former conduct. I most earnestly beseech you, Sir, to intercede with my worthy master in my behalf, and should I again be admitted into his service, my future life shall be one continued act of gratitude. I am, Sir,

Your affectionate, though undutiful Son.

L E T-

L E T T E R LX.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Child,

THE contents of your letter has given me a degree of uneasiness not to be described. Tendernefs as a parent, resentment on account of ingratitude, a real concern for your future happiness, and respect for the worthy man whose service you have deserted, all conspire together to agitate my mind to different purposes: but paternal affection becomes predominant, and I am obliged to act as your friend, although I am afraid you have considered me as your enemy. I have written to your master, and just now received his answer, copies of which I have sent inclosed. As your master is willing to admit you again into his service, I hope his distinguished lenity will be fully impressed on your mind, and that you will endeavour to return the obligation by a strict attention to your business, and by acting in a manner that becomes a dutiful servant to a valuable master. I am,

Your affectionate Father.

L E T T E R LXI.

The Father's Letter to the Master.

Worthy Friend,

WITH pleasure have I often written to you ; but cannot say that is the case at present, being constrained to address myself to you on a subject I little expected. I have just received a letter from my son, by which I am informed that he has left your service through the instigation of evil company. This letter contains a penitential acknowledgment of his offence, together with a declaration of his resolution to act consistently with his duty for the future. He has requested of me to intercede with you in his behalf, and I know your humanity will excuse parental affection. If you will be pleased to admit him again into

your

your family, I have great reason to hope that his conduct will be conformable to his promises; and be assured, the obligation shall never be forgotten by, Sir,

Your sincere well-wisher.

L E T T E R LXII.

The Master's Answer.

S I R,

I Received your's, and am sorry there should be occasion for your writing to me on so disagreeable a subject. Ever since I first considered the state of human nature, or the difference between right and wrong, I have always preferred mercy to the severity of justice. I am a father, Sir, and can feel at least a part of what you suffer. My resentment at your son's misconduct is less than my anxiety for his happiness; and were I sure of his adhering to an uninterrupted course of virtue, it would give me the most unspeakable satisfaction. In the mean time, that nothing may be wanting, on my part, to make both you and him as happy as possible, all faults are from this moment forgiven. My house is open for his reception, and if he will return he shall be treated with the same indulgence as if he had not trespassed.

I am, Sir, your affectionate Friend.

L E T T E R LXIII.

From a young Man lately set up in Business, to his Father, asking his Consent to marry.

Honoured Sir,

IT is now more than twelve months since I entered into business for myself, and as it has increased gradually ever since, I find myself greatly at a loss for want of proper assistance, I mean that which may be reasonably expected from a wife. There is a worthy family in this neighbourhood with whom I have been some time acquainted: they are in good circumstances, and

and have a daughter, an amiable young woman, who is greatly esteemed by all who know her. I have paid my addresses to her, and have likewise obtained the consent of her parents, so that nothing remains to compleat a matrimonial alliance but your approbation. I would not, upon any consideration, act in this matter without your consent: but I hope that, upon the strictest enquiry, you will not have reason to object to such an alliance. Her parents are to pay me 300l. on the day of marriage; and as they have not any other children, the whole of their property will become ours after their decease. In whatever light you may be pleased to consider this matter, I shall abide by your direction; and in the mean time, your answer is impatiently expected by

Your dutiful Son.

L E T T E R LXIV.

The Father's Answer:

My dear Son,

AS the contents of your last letter is of the utmost importance, I could not return you an answer so soon as I should have done had it been on any other subject. I wrote to a very particular friend, on whom I can depend, desiring him to make the necessary enquiries concerning the object of your choice; and finding from his answer that she is an amiable and deserving girl, you have my free consent to act as you shall think proper. If you should form an alliance, and her parents fulfil their engagement on the day of marriage, I will double the sum, and do whatever else I can to promote your future prosperity. Wishing you all that happiness which you may expect from a conjugal state, I remain,

8

Your affectionate Father.

L E T.

L E T T E R LXV.

From a Father to his Daughter, disapproving of her Intentions to marry at too early an Age.

Dear Lucy,

I Was greatly surpris'd at the letter you sent me last week, in which you inform me that you intend soon to be married. I had, indeed, propos'd, at a proper time, to find a husband for you; but I thought I had yet three or four years to come. Consider, Lucy, you are not yet sixteen years of age; and I am certain you have not had sufficient experience to conduct the affairs of a family. Besides, let me tell you, I have great objection to the person, and think him by no means the man I would chuse for your husband. On the whole, you must expect, if you marry without my consent, to live without my assistance. Think it not hard: your disappointment cannot be greater than mine, if you will proceed. I have never us'd violent measures to you on any occasion, and therefore shall not on this. But yet I certainly hope you will not hurry yourself into destruction, and me, perhaps, into the grave, by an action which a little consideration may so easily prevent. I am,

Your afflicted Father.

L E T T E R LXVI.

From a Father to his Daughter, on hearing that her Master made an Attempt on her Virtue.

Dear Daughter,

IT is with great concern that I understand your master has made some attempts on your virtue; and I am still more afflicted when I think of your still continuing with him after such treatment. I hope to God you have not yet yielded to his base desires; for when once a man has so far forgotten what belongs to himself, or his character, as to make such an attempt; the very continuance with him, and in his power, and under the

D

same

same roof, is an encouragement to him to prosecute his designs. And if he carries it better, and more civil, at present, it is only the more certainly to undo you when he attacks you next. Consider, my dear child, your reputation is all you have to trust to. And if you have not already (which God forbid) yielded to him, leave it not to the hazard of another temptation; but come away directly, (as you ought to have done yourself) at the command of

Your afflicted and indulgent Father.

L E T T E R LXVII.

The Daughter's Answer.

Honoured Father,

I Received your letter yesterday, and am sorry I staid a moment in my master's house after his vile attempt. But he was so full of his promises of never offering the like again, that I hoped I might believe him; nor have I yet seen any thing to the contrary. I am so much convinced that I ought to have done as you say, that I have this day left the house; and hope to be with you soon after you will have received this letter.

I am,

Your dutiful Daughter.

L E T T E R LXVIII.

From a Daughter to her Mother, excusing herself for neglecting to write to her.

Honoured Madam,

I AM very much concerned to find my long silence should have given you so much uneasiness as I understand it has. On my word, Madam, my neglect has not arisen from a want of filial duty or respect, but from a visit I have received from Lady Betty Brilliant, and her amiable niece Maria, who are exceeding good company, and whom you are always proud of entertaining.

taining. I am not, however, insensible, that neither this plea, nor any other, however important, can justly acquit me for not writing oftener to a parent so tender and indulgent as yourself. But as the case now stands, I know not any other method of making atonement, than by a sincere promise of a more strict observance of my duty for the future. If, therefore, Madam, you will be pleased to forgive me this first transgression of the kind, you may rest assured it shall never be repeated by, honoured Madam,

Your dutiful Daughter.

L E T T E R LXIX.

From a Niece to her Aunt, requesting a Favour.

Madam,

THE repeated acts of generosity I have already experienced at your hands, will for ever be impressed on my mind; and I confess it gives me some concern, that I should be reduced to the necessity of applying to you for farther assistance. A particular circumstance has occurred that obliges me to ask of you, my only and valuable friend, the advance of a little money which I have the opportunity of using to very considerable advantage. I beg you will excuse the freedom I have taken in this request, which, should you be pleased to grant, will make a considerable addition to the many favours already bestowed on

Your dutiful and obliged Niece.

L E T T E R LXX.

From a Sailor at Portsmouth, to his Wife in London.

Dear Hannah,

WE are just returned from a cruize against the Spaniards, in the course of which we sunk two of their ships, and have brought three others, containing

some valuable treasure, into this port. It will be some time before we shall receive our prize money. However, I have six months wages due, and have sent you an order, by which you will receive it at the Pay-Office in Broad-street. We shall sail again in a few days. I beg you will not make yourself uneasy at my absence. I hope the war will be soon over, and I shall have the pleasure, once more, to see you in London, there to spend with you the remainder of my days.

I am,

Your loving Husband till death.

L E T T E R LIX.

From a Wife to her Husband, respecting a Friend.

Madam,

I have repeated acts of generosity I have already experienced at your hands, which will ever be impressed on my mind; and I confess it gives me some concern, that I should be reduced to the necessity of applying to you for further assistance. A particular circumstance has occurred that obliges me to ask of you, my only and valuable friend, an advance of a little money, which I have the opportunity of using to very considerable advantage. I beg you will excuse the trouble I have taken in this request, which, should you be pleased to grant, will make a considerable addition to the many favours already bestowed on

John Doolittle and obliged Wife.

L E T T E R LXX.

From a Sister or Brother, to his Wife or Husband.

My Friend,

THE

I am just returned from a circuit against the spirit of the law, in the county of Kent, and have just received your letter, which I have been much obliged to you for sending me.

I am,

THE NEW
LETTER-WRITER.

PART III.

*Letters of Advice, Rebuke, Instruction,
&c.*

LETTER LXXI.

*From a Father to his Son, on the latter's Admission into
the University.*

My dear Son,

YOU are now launched, as it were, into the wide world. Every step you take is attended with danger, and requires caution. My eye is no longer upon you, and I fear there are but few who will have concern or affection enough to advise you faithfully. Your conduct must be principally regulated by your own reflections. The only secure paths are those of religion and virtue, in which it will not be difficult for you to walk, if you live agreeable to that simplicity of life which the rules of academical societies prescribe. Be particularly careful in the choice of your company: pay civility to all; have friendship with few; and not too quickly with any. An idle companion will corrupt and disgrace you while you associate with him, and asperse and expose you when you shall shake him off. When you find yourself with people of superior age, or quality, or station, or abilities, pay a deference to them, for so much is due to their experience

and character. Take the proper advantages of living in a society. Observe the different tempers and dispositions of men : shun their vices, imitate their virtues, make use of their learning, and let the many eyes that are upon you, the consciousness of your duty, and an abhorrence to appearing insignificant, raise an emulation in you to excel in some kind of art or knowledge that may hereafter be useful, not only to yourself but also the community. Let no one exercise go out of your hands that hath not employed your utmost diligence. Notwithstanding the affection I have for you, I shall not be able to do you the service I could wish, unless you assist me with your character. In all doubtful cases consult your governors, who are best able to direct you ; and whatever you want that I can bestow, so long as you conduct yourself as becomes your character, it shall be chearfully granted by

Your affectionate Father.

L E T T E R LXXII.

From a Father to his Son, rebuking him for neglecting his Business.

Dear Tommy,

IT gives me the greatest concern to hear of your carelessness and mismanagement in your business. Remissness is inexcusable in all characters, but in none so much as in a man of business, the soul of which is industry, diligence, and punctuality. Let me beg of you to shake off the idle habits you have contracted ; quit unprofitable company, and unseasonable recreations, and employ more of your time in your counting-house. It may not be yet too late to retrieve your affairs. Inspect therefore your gains, and see what proportion they bear to your expences ; and then examine which of the latter you can, and which you cannot, contract. Reflect, I beseech you, before it is too late, on the inconveniencies which an impoverished trader is put to for the remainder of his life, which, too, may happen to be the prime part of it : the indignities

dignities he is likely to suffer from those whose money he has unthinkingly squandered : the contempt he will meet with from all, not excepting the idle companions of his folly : the injustice he does his family, in depriving his children not only of the power of raising themselves, but of living tolerably ; and how, on the contrary, from being born to a creditable expectation, he sinks them into the lowest class of mankind, and exposes them to the most dangerous temptations. What has not such a father to answer for ! and all this for the sake of indulging himself in an idle, careless, thoughtless habit, that cannot afford the least satisfaction beyond the present hour, if in that ; and which must be attended with deep remorse, when he comes to reflect. Think, my son, seriously of these things, and in time resolve on such a course as may bring credit to yourself ; justice to all with whom you deal ; peace and pleasure to your own mind, and comfort to your family ; all which will, at the same time, greatly promote the happiness of

Your loving Father.

L E T T E R LXXIII.

The Son's Answer.

Honoured Sir,

I Beg you will accept my most sincere acknowledgments for your seasonable reproof and advice. I have, indeed, too much indulged myself in an idle careless habit, and had already begun to feel the evil consequences of it, when I received your letter, in the insults of a creditor or two, from whom I expected kinder treatment. But, indeed, they wanted only their own ; so that I could only blame myself for suffering them, by my own misconduct, to take such an advantage. Your letter came so seasonably upon this, that I hope it will not fail of the desired effect ; and as, I thank God, it is not yet too late, I am resolved to take another course, that I may avoid the ill consequences you so judiciously warn me of, and give to my family

family and friends the pleasure they so well deserve at my hands; and particularly that satisfaction to so good a father, which is due from

A dutiful Son.

L E T T E R LXXIV.

From an Officer in the Army, to his Son at Boarding-School, recommending Diligence in his Studies.

My dear Child,

Portsmouth.

AT present our regiment is at this place, but we shall not stay long, having received orders to embark for Jamaica. I did intend to have called on you at school, but our orders to march were so sudden, that I had no time to spare from the necessary duties of my station. Let me beg of you, my dear boy, to attend diligently to your studies. Youth is the proper time for acquiring knowledge, which, if properly improved, and reduced to practice, will be of the utmost service to you in the future part of your life. You are yet unacquainted with the world, and happy will it be for you to remain ignorant of the toils and dangers of a military employment. Let me therefore intreat you, in the most earnest manner, to think of some business which will procure you a decent subsistence, and enable you to live independent in the world. I have left an order with our agent to pay for your education; and although my pay is small, yet nothing on my part shall be wanting to make your life as easy as possible. As it will be some days before we sail, I shall expect to have a letter from you, and if too late, it will be sent after me. God bless you, and fail not to preserve in your remembrance the advice you here receive from

An affectionate Father.

L E T-

L E T T E R LXXV.

The Son's Answer.

Honoured Sir,

I Received your letter, and am greatly afflicted to think you should be so precipitately hurried away to a distant country, and that, possibly, I may never have the opportunity of seeing again the most indulgent of parents. I am convinced your friendly advice to me is such, that, if strictly followed, must be attended with the most beneficial consequences to myself. My honour and happiness will equally depend on adhering to them, and I shall always consider it as my second greatest duty to obey the precepts of my worthy father. When I have obtained a thorough knowledge of the classics, if agreeable to you, I have thoughts of taking chambers in one of the inns of court, in order to study the law: my inclinations run that way; but I submit it wholly to your approbation. I beg you will write to me as often as possible, as it will be the greatest pleasure I can enjoy during such a separation.

I am, honoured Sir,

Your most affectionate Son.

L E T T E R LXXVI.

From a Father to his Son, just Beginning the World.

My dear Child,

YOU are now, as it were, beginning life, and as you will probably have considerable dealings in your business, the frequent occasions you will have for advice from others will make you desirous of singling out, from your most intimate acquaintance, one or two, whom you would consider in the light of friends. In choosing these, the greatest care will be necessary, for by a mistake here you can scarcely conceive, the fatal effects you may hereafter experience. You may form some judgment of those who are fit to be your advisers, by the conduct they have observed in their own affairs,

and the reputation they bear in the world: for he who has, by his own indiscretion undone himself, is much fitter to be set up as a land-mark for a prudent mariner to shun his courses, than an example to follow. At all events, let your endeavours be to associate with men of sobriety, good sense and virtue; for the proverb is an unerring one, which says, “A man is known by the company he keeps.” If such men you can single out, while you improve by their conversation, you will benefit by their advice; and be sure to remember one thing, that though you must be frank and unreserved in delivering your sentiments, when occasions offer, yet you must be readier to hear than to speak. A silent young man makes generally a wise old one, and never fails of being respected by the best and most prudent men. When, therefore, you come among strangers, hear every one speak before you deliver your own sentiments; by which means you will be able to judge of the merit and capacities of your company, and thereby avoid exposing yourself by shooting out hasty and inconsiderate bolts. These few thoughts, which I have thrown together as they occurred, may suffice, for the present, to shew my care and concern for your welfare. I beg you will constantly, from time to time, communicate to me whatever you may think worthy my notice, or in which my advice may be of use to you; for the greatest pleasure to me, in this life, consists in furnishing my children with all the happiness that lays in my power. I am, as I shall ever continue to be,

Your affectionate Father.

L E T T E R LXXVII.

From a Father to a Son, dissuading him from the pernicious Practice of Drinking to Excess.

My dear Son,

AS my love for you is extreme, so likewise is my grief, on understanding that you have lately given yourself up to the odious vice of drinking. If you do
not

not endeavour to lay aside this pernicious practice, it will, in time, become habitual, and then, if not impossible, it will be at least very difficult, to shake it off. Let me, therefore, entreat you to pay a suitable attention to what I have to say on this head, which I shall offer rather as a warm friend, than an angry father.

In the first place, excessive drinking is the most destructive of all vices to the health, the greatest jewel of this life, as it introduces almost every disease incident to human nature. All the other vices put together, are not so often punished with sudden death as this. What fatal accidents, what quarrels, what breaches, even sometimes between the dearest friends, arise from this detestable practice!

In the second place, it eclipses reason, destroys all the tender impulses of nature, subjects a man of the brightest parts to contempt, and even, in time, extinguishes those shining qualities which constitute the difference between a man of sense and a blockhead.

A man who addict's himself to excessive drinking cannot be either a good husband, a good father, a good son, a good brother, or a good friend. It lays him open to the worst of company, and that company frequently subjects him to lewd women, gaming, quarrels, riots, and sometimes murders. This shocking vice, when once become habitual, will make the prudent inconsiderate; the ambitious, indolent; the active, idle; and the industrious slothful: so that their affairs will be ruined for want of application, or by being entrusted with those who may turn them to their own advantage; and, in the end, to the ruin of their employers. Let me therefore beg of you to leave off this pernicious habit, by doing of which, you will promote your own welfare, and give inexpressible happiness to

Your most indulgent Father.

L E T T E R LXXVIII.

From an elder to a younger Brother, upbraiding him with Extravagance.

Dear Tom,

FROM the near relation in which I stand to you, I cannot hear of your misfortunes without concern; and were they less owing to your indiscretion, I might add, without pity. During the lives of our affectionate and indulgent parents, you was supplied but too liberally with the means of gratifying an excess of vanity and dissipation; nor had two short years elapsed since the death of the fondest of mothers, ere you had squandered the patrimony bequeathed you.

By seniority the estate of course devolved upon me, who on many former occasions, you are conscious, readily administered to your necessities, and delivered you from embarrassments; but they are now become so frequent, that I cannot possibly attend to them without violating the grand duty I owe to myself and family. Pardon the frankness of my declaration, when I assure you, that I have still your welfare at heart; and that, if I had the least foundation to believe, you would appropriate the sum requested on loan, to laudable purposes, I would not withhold it a moment. But my dearest brother, with what shadow of reason can I entertain such a hope? you have derived no essential good either from the bounty of our venerable parents, or the assistance of your affectionate relative. Should I therefore comply with your desire, I fear the remedy would prove worse than the disease, by protracting your credit a short space, and thereby involving you in greater difficulties. Not to dwell on so disagreeable a subject, you must permit me to declare, that when you give sufficient proof of a determined resolution to change your way of life, and abandon those principles and practices which if persisted in, subject their votaries to misery and ruin both temporal and eternal, nothing shall be wanting on my part to convince you with what sincere esteem

I am,

Your loving Brother, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R LXXIX.

From a Sister in the Country to a Brother in Town, complaining of his Negligence in not Writing.

My dearest Brother,

AS I ever entertained the highest opinion of your duty to your parents in particular, and affection for your relatives in general, I am sorry to find that you are so entirely devoted to the pleasures and amusements of London, as hardly to allow yourself a few minutes in the course of a month, to write to us with respect to your health, or any occurrences that may pass during your absence. You must be sensible in what esteem you are held by us all, in proportion to which, you must of course acknowledge the degree of your neglect. I have endeavoured to plead your excuse; pray then retrieve your character by writing to us immediately, which will afford the highest satisfaction to all, and to none more than

Your most affectionate Sister, &c.

L E T T E R LXXX.

Answer to the foregoing.

Dear Sister,

I Acknowledge the charge so justly alledged in your kind epistle, return you sincere thanks for becoming my advocate, and embrace the first opportunity of soliciting a general pardon on terms of amendment in future. As you have been so successful in pleading my cause upon former occasions, I doubt not the good effect of your generous interposition on the present. Intercede then with my father, mother and aunt, for their forgiveness; assure them that my neglect arose from inadvertence, not disrespect, of which it shall be the future study of my life to convince both you and them by the due observance of every duty relative and social.

I am, your much obliged
and affectionate Brother, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R LXXXI.

*To a Young Lady on the Subject of changing her Guardians,
and encouraging clandestine Addresses.*

Dear Miss,

LEST the liberty I have taken, in offering my sentiments in the following lines, should in your opinion exceed the bound of decorum, you will permit me to assure you, that they are founded on experience, and sincere respect for the memory of your deceased parents, and an ingenuous regard for your welfare and happiness. The subjects on which I address you, are of equal importance to your interest and honour: the one a report of your intention of transferring the guardianship of your person and fortune from the gentleman to whom your prudent and tender father committed them, from the most confirmed proofs of their integrity and wisdom, during connections mercantile and social, upwards of twenty years; the other of your encouraging the clandestine addresses of Mr. Silver-tongue. The former rash design, I fear is the consequence of the latter instance of want of discretion; as, though I wish not to undervalue your good sense, I am persuaded your present guardians will never lay any restraint on your actions, but such as appear to them conducive to your interest and happiness. The point of marriage is, of all others, the most important, and that in which young minds are most easily deluded. A man of honour in this, as in every action, appears openly, disdains artifice and subterfuge; whilst he who conceals his designs, and seeks to ingratiate himself by the insidious arts of clandestine address, equally impeaches his own character, and the understanding of the female upon whom he would thus endeavour to impose. No wonder therefore, that your guardians, in an article of such consequence, should prefer their legal authority to enquire into the character and circumstances of Mr. Silver-tongue; or that he, from the dark manner of his proceeding, should wish to avoid their scrutiny, by advising you to exempt yourself from their controul.

Consider

Consider these matters therefore, seriously ; you neither want sense, beauty or fortune sufficient to recommend you to young gentlemen of established character, who would glory in an honourable alliance. You are committed to the care of men of known worth and probity, who will never discourage the addresses of any that are apparently worthy of you ; but ever protest against the wretch, who seeks access to your person by the aid of back doors or bribed servants. You will pardon the freedom of these hints, as the effects of a most zealous attachment to your interest ; and permit me to subscribe myself, dear miss,

your most sincere friend, &c.

L E T T E R LXXXII.

On the Subject of Religion and Virtue, from a Lady in Town to her Daughter in the Country.

My dear Child,

THE most undoubted proof of affection in a parent, is a constant and unremitting regard to the temporal and eternal interests of the child ; which can never be so effectually promoted, as by inculcating the precepts of religion and virtue, the one being the immediate consequence and infallible effect of the other. From this persuasion, I must in duty acquaint you, that I am sorry to observe a stile of levity in your late letters, which by no means favour of that unaffected piety, with which, in a series of former correspondence you have so pleased and delighted me.

Think me not rigid nor austere in the remark ; it is the effusion of love, it flows from that regard to your welfare I hold inseparable from my own. Religion, my child, is the most important of all pursuits ; it constitutes whatever is truly great and noble ; it consists in an imitation (as far as human fallibility will permit) of the divine attributes and perfections ; its handmaid is virtue : in a word, it is an incentive to all good, and a preventive from all evil.

I would

I would still hope you are not so wholly taken up in pursuing the fashionable amusements of the gay and thoughtless, as to abandon the concerns of the nobler, the immortal part of your frame. Let me therefore entreat, that you dedicate some reasonable portion of time to the cultivation of the mind and the improvement of virtue. With the coquettes and the belle esprits of the age this is out of fashion; but suffer not such idle flutterers to laugh you out of your reason, nor seduce you into paths which lead to destruction. Let me beg you would frequently have recourse to that much neglected, that most excellent of books, "THE BIBLE;" in which, if I am so happy as to find you take delight, I will, in course of time, send you, as a present, the exposition of an eminent divine, elegantly bound, and embellished with masterly designs and engravings. I preclude not any amusement consistent with virtue; let religion be your guide, and you cannot err.

I am,

Your most affectionate Mother, &c.

LETTER LXXXIII.

The Answer.

Honoured Madam,

THE strain of unaffected piety and parental tenderness you breathe in the letter with which you have favoured me, affects me I hope with a just sense of your regard and my own neglect. To ease your mind of the burthen with which a just cause of complaint seems to oppress it, I acknowledge the levity laid to my charge; but you will permit me to say, the letters referred to were penned in an hour of youthful gaiety, that might divert me from a due attention to the character addressed. I review my folly with conscious shame, and am duly sensible of my obligations to religion, virtue, and the best of parents, from an adherence to which I trust no examples will ever seduce me. I return you thanks for the promise of an invaluable present, and will endeavour to make a practical use of it,

as

as the best return within my power. Your precepts shall be treasured up in my heart, and exemplified in my life; the constant study of which shall be, to prove with what profound veneration I am, honoured madam,
Your dutiful Daughter.

L E T T E R LXXXIV.

Advice from an Aunt in the Country to her Niece in London, against encouraging the Addressee of a Man of immoral Character.

Dear Niece,

FROM motives of delicacy, I have some time withheld my opinion and advice concerning your encouraging the addressee of Mr. Wouldbe; but as I have received certain information of his character and circumstances, the esteem I now bear your mother, and the affection I once had for your deceased father, will no longer suffer me to be silent on so interesting a subject. You are daily seen with this Wouldbe at the different places of public resort; from whence, as he is branded as a spendthrift and libertine, conjectures are formed highly injurious to your honour and interest. You may probably be allured by the expectation of a considerable estate devolving to him on the demise of a relative, but as he is greatly incumbered with debt, which his dissipated way of life must rather encrease than diminish, nothing but penury and misery can be reasonably proposed from such an alliance: nay, to repair his broken fortunes, and further administer to his vices, I am credibly informed he is now in contract with a rich dowager at Knightsbridge. I have with great freedom stated the character on whom you lavish your company at least. Your own good sense must point out the consequences of an ostensible intimacy, and particularly those of an indissoluble alliance, in which case you cannot but spurn so despicable an object with deserved contempt. As my advice is sincerely given, I hope it will be cordially received, and am your sincere friend and affectionate aunt, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R LXXXV.

Answer to the preceding.

Honoured Madam,

THE very serious and affectionate advice contained in your friendly letter, perfectly convinces me of the regard and esteem with which you are pleased to honour me, and as such demands my sincerest acknowledgment. If I am censurable in admitting the visits of Mr. Wouldbe, I have to plead in my behalf an entire ignorance of his character; while I rejected his proposals of marriage till I had obtained the consent of my dear mother, whose will I am determined never to oppose. In consequence of your friendly intimation and admonition, I this morning banished him my presence, with a peremptory injunction of future absence, as a character dangerous and detestable. I thank you a thousand times for your seasonable warning, and to convince you of the sincerity of my resolution, will leave London in a few days, and on my arrival in the country, do myself the honour of waiting on you, after discharging the duty previously due to my mother.

I am, dear madam,

Your affectionate Niece.

L E T T E R LXXXVI.

Advice to a Lover.

Dear Sir,

THE subject on which I now write to you is rather peculiar, but as it proceeds from real friendship, I presume you will receive my opinion and advice with candour, and adopt the one and practise the other, so far as they may appear consonant to reason and common sense.

I find you love and are beloved by a lady of beauty and merit; but then your affection, or rather your method of shewing it, borders so much on the extreme,

treme, that if persisted in, I fear it will tend to appal the object, and thereby, in course of time, put an end to its being reciprocal. You will never lose sight of your mistress ; every visitor you look on as an intruder ; the subject of love engrosses your conversation, and occupies your thoughts by night and by day. The lady, I am informed, hitherto repays your affectionate regard with the most unremitting assiduity : but such frequent declarations of the warmth of your passion cannot fail to tire, as tautology on the most pleasing theme will create and increase disgust. As in other pursuits, some little relaxation is necessary in the business of love ; it will render each return to the tender passion more agreeable to both parties. Nothing is so powerful in renewing an old flame, or reviving a languishing one, as occasional absence, if not of too long duration. I must affirm, upon the whole, that in commencing the lover, you seem to have renounced the man : remember you must live as well as love ; you may assert your passion, but you must not abandon your reason ; therefore I hope you will follow my council, and spare a few hours now and then for the enjoyment of a social companion.

I am, your's sincerely,

THE

THE NEW
LETTER WRITER.

PART IV.

Letters on COURTSHIP *and* MARRIAGE.

LETTER LXXXVII.

From a young Man in Business to a Father, requesting Permission to pay Addresses to his Daughter.

S I R,

AS my designs are honourable, I shall offer no apology for the freedom I take in assuring you of the sincere and disinterested esteem I have some time entertained for your daughter. Influenced by this principle, I would avoid every procedure repugnant to her interest, nor indulge a hope of recommending myself to her favour, till I had previously ensured your approbation. I would propose nothing inconsistent with her duty to you, but readily submit my character and situation to the most impartial enquiry, and wait, with profound respect, the result of your determination.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

A H T

L E T.

LETTER LXXXVIII.

The Answer.

SIR,

THERE is an openness of principle in your declaration respecting my daughter, that I must confess disposes me to favour your designs. As a duty incumbent on me as a father, I shall take the liberty of enquiring into the particulars you mention; and if they correspond with my wishes, you have my hearty concurrence to prefer your addresses. Though I claim a right to put a negative on her choice, upon justifiable grounds, I will never impose an injunction contrary to her inclination, as I am persuaded reciprocal affection alone, in the married state, can constitute solid and lasting happiness. If, therefore, you can win her, possess her; I shall freely give her to you, and with her my blessing, in all your endeavours for mutual prosperity. In a few days you will hear further from

Your humble servant, &c.

LETTER LXXXIX.

To the Daughter, in Consequence of the Father's Grant of the Permission requested.

Madam,

ITook the liberty of disclosing to your honoured father the esteem which I have some time entertained for your person and endowments, and, in consequence of a necessary previous enquiry, he has generously encouraged my hopes. I therefore intreat that you will permit me the honour of a visit on Thursday next. I doubt not but he has apprized you of my intention, which is an honourable alliance with his family by your means; he has signified his approbation, provided it meets with your concurrence; yet I deem it incumbent on me to use this mode of introduction, as I would fail in no instance that can prove the inviolable regard with which I am, dear Madam,

Your devoted servant, &c.

LET-

L E T T E R XC.

The Daughter's Reply.

S I R,

I Was favoured with your's respecting a matter the most important in human life, and therefore entitled to the most serious and mature deliberation. With respect to myself, I freely confess I have no objection to your person; but as that ever has been, and shall be with me but a secondary consideration in the engagement proposed, I must wave all further determination till opportunity shall convince me of your mental accomplishments, on which I must rest the ground of future happiness. You will excuse the freedom I have used on the occasion, as plain truth is (though now out of fashion) and shall be my motto. I shall receive your visit with due respect; and am, Sir,
Your humble servant, &c.

L E T T E R XCI.

A concise Declaration of Love.

Madam,

AS from the delicacy of your frame, I doubt not of your being susceptible of tender impression, I am emboldened to disclose that which I have long laboured to conceal. Without farther reservation, permit me to assure you, that I have for some time entertained for you a generous, though unconquerable passion, a passion that actuates the human mind with peculiar force and energy. You will, I presume, from this brief description, easily conjecture, that the passion I allude to is LOVE: As sincerity is the basis of love as well as friendship, I am conscious of my right to that plea in my favour; but as time alone can prove to you the reality of my profession, I only solicit the favour of paying you a visit on Thursday next, that I may have the opportunity of convincing you with what profound esteem and affection I am

Your devoted servant to command, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R XCII.

From a Guardian to his Ward, against a volatile, frothy French Lover.

Dear Sally,

THE freedoms to which I have lately observed you admit Monsieur Fanfarron, your dancing-master, fill me with equal concern and indignation. His flippant air and jig-like deportment might serve for the diversion of a vacant hour, but surely no reasonable being could dream of such a buffoon for a husband, especially the husband of an English wife. These puppies affect to please, but they confidently expect to be obliged in their turn. I fear, my dear, you are too much captivated with exterior accomplishments, and too regardless of those endowments on which happiness in the married state absolutely depends. You will say, Monsieur Fanfarron dances delightfully, but he writes a vile scroll; plays at quadrille admirably, but he knows nothing of figures; understands the chicane of a card or a die, but he is an absolute stranger to the laws of this land; he has made prodigious improvements in his person, but his mind is not fraught with one virtue; he cuts a shining figure in company, but he is wholly unacquainted with domestic œconomy; he makes a very plausible lover, but he will prove a very scurvy husband; in short, I shall sum up his character in the words of an old poetical friend of mine:

“ Whose soul no dawn of sentiment reveals,
“ And all whose merit centers in his heels.”

This is my frank opinion of Monsieur Fanfarron: you don't want sense, and you have had some experience from observation; reflect then coolly on the picture I have drawn, and I believe you will find it resembles the life; if so, I shall need no other motive to dissuade you from a connection so derogatory to your character, so fatal to your interest.

I am, sincerely your's, &c. &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R XCIII.

The Lady's Answer to the preceding.

Dear Sir,

THOUGH your last epistle gives some proof of regard, I cannot help rallying you on the subject. You arraign at once my taste and my judgment, in supposing I can harbour a serious thought of Fanfarron. The thing amuses me, I laugh with, and at him; but as a character I hold him in as despicable a light as yourself; and you may be assured that when I bestow my hand and heart, it shall be to a man.

I am, your dutiful Ward.

L E T T E R XCIV.

From a young Gentleman to his Mother, complaining of his Progress in Courtship.

Honoured Madam,

WITH your consent and approbation I paid my addresses to Miss Seymour, but was rather repulsed than encouraged to proceed. I was so prepossessed in her favour from the character you gave her in point of rare accomplishments, that I could by no means account for her conduct and behaviour on the occasion; for I must confess, I have the vanity not to resign all pretence to merit on my own part. Piqued at the treatment I met with, I absented myself for two days, and then repeated my visit, and was received with a kind of formal politeness; but no sooner did I enter on the main business, but she interrupted me by ringing for the servant, to dispatch him on some frivolous errand. I continued to urge my passion, she to evade reply; and so we went on for the space of two months, no serious topic coming into conversation, all foreign to my designs, till at length I made her a low bow, and left her to ruminate on what had passed. Now, Madam, as I paid my devoirs to this very extraordinary character at your instance, I must crave your advice whether I am to pursue, or decline my suit for ever. I am, honoured Madam,

Your dutiful Son.

L E T-

L E T T E R XCV.

The Answer, encouraging him to renew his Addresses.

Dear Child,

WHEN I encouraged you to prefer your suit to Miss Seymour, I thought you had more resolution than to give up the point on meeting with a trifling resistance. Those are little acquainted with our sex, who imagine we are all to be taken by storm. A woman who possesses good sense, cultivated by a liberal education, is not to be won by general compliment, or what we term the modes of courtship. Her judgment must be convinced before she can be brought to surrender her heart. Such is Miss Seymour; and for that very reason, as a mother, I wish to advise the continuance of your addresses, as I am persuaded she will make an excellent wife. Do you convince her of your merit as a man of sense, and she will convince you of her regard for you as a lover. When she admits you to her favour upon that principle, her very choice will do you credit, and reflect honour upon herself. Young men are too apt to maintain vague and idle opinions of courtship; but that alone is effectual, which subserves lasting and important purposes, in the main concerns of life.

I am, your affectionate Mother, &c.

L E T T E R XCVI.

ON FORMAL COURTSHIP.

Dear Madam,

I Remember reading of the passion of love as affecting its subject in such a manner, as at once to preclude a capacity for speaking, and at the same time withstand the power of being silent. Such is my present situation; your presence strikes me with a kind of awe, that I must own myself as incapable of speaking as of holding my tongue; and this from a consciousness that you disdain idle fallacy and vain compliment,

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and that in the concerns of love as in all others, you prefer solid judgment to the most specious pretences, founded on parade and ostentation. Waving, therefore, all tedious and unmeaning forms, I have only to assure you, that as I wish for happiness mutual and permanent, I would pursue it by no means but those that will bear the nicest reflection; for I hope to be blessed with your society, long after the pleasure of sense must fail, and a taste only remain for intellectual enjoyments. If my address is not the most polished, you may rely on its sincerity, and particularly so when I subscribe myself

Your respectful admirer,

And devoted humble servant, &c.

LETTER XCVII.

Answer to the preceding.

SIR,

I Coincide with your general opinion concerning a tedious formality in courtship, yet must own cannot but wish you had been rather more explicit in your declarations. There is a material distinction between ceremony and decency, which should be observed in all the concerns of life. I do not perfectly comprehend your meaning and design from your late mode of expression; and being rather prejudiced in your favour than otherwise, if I find you more frank and open in future, I may be disposed to encourage your addresses by a more favourable attention.

I am, Sir, your humble servant, &c.

LETTER XCVIII.

From a young Lady to her Father, on a proposal of Marriage.

Honoured Sir,

AS there is no transaction of my life with which I could wish you to be unacquainted, I cannot in duty withhold from your knowledge one of the most interesting

interesting and important. During your absence in the country, I received a letter from Mr. Tradewell, professing the sincerest love and esteem, and proposing terms of marriage equitable and honourable. Convinced of my own inexperience, and relying on your wisdom and affection, I deferred reply till I made you acquainted with the affair. The case thus stated, I submit to your consideration and judgment, determined in this, as in all other matters of importance, to have no law but your will, which I am persuaded you can never exercise but with a paternal authority.

You are intimately acquainted with the father, and have, I presume, some knowledge of the son; for my own part, I must confess I have no aversion to his person, and could admit his addresses with pleasure, if they had obtained the sanction of your consent. But you will permit me to assure you, that I shall never form any connections of this nature, or comply with any offers inconsistent with that regard I owe the best of parents, and which, during life, I shall endeavour to testify.

I am, honoured Sir,

Your dutiful daughter, &c.

L E T T E R XCIX.

The Father's Answer.

My dear Girl,

YOUR late token of filial duty I received with peculiar pleasure and satisfaction, and as the subject so nearly concerns both my happiness and your's, shall hasten to town as soon as business will permit, in order, after due enquiry, to give you my opinion and advice. Though I know, and have had connections with the father, I am very little acquainted with the son; yet I always in candour take the favourable side of the question, till I have a just ground to the contrary. Nothing would afford me more joy than to see you settled in life, and flourishing in the midst of prosperity; but great caution is necessary, ere the in-

dissoluble knot is tied, which binds in a state wherein there is no alternative between perfect felicity and absolute wretchedness. Remember, therefore, my dear child, that comeliness which never fades is seated in the mind; a good disposition, a benevolent heart, an elevated soul will remain amidst all the changes and chances of this transitory life, endear every tie, and bless as well as be blessed. You will excuse my moralizing on the occasion, as it flows from a sincere love for the best of daughters, to promote whose interest and happiness here and hereafter, shall be the constant wish and endeavour of

Your most affectionate father, &c.

L E T T E R C.

From an Officer in the Army to a young Lady.

Dear Charlotte,

SINCE you captivated my heart, and took possession of my whole soul, I have regretted the uncertainty of that state to which fate seems to have ordained me, and wished often it had been my lot to have been fixed in a permanent situation. This reflection recurred with peculiar force on our regiment's receiving orders to decamp from Winchester, and retire into winter quarters at Southampton. This place is agreeably situated, and abounds with polite company; but, alas! what satisfaction, what pleasure can I derive from all the diversions under the sun in the absence of her in whom my every joy is centered? I love my king and country, and prize not my life when placed in competition with their mutual honour and interest; yet when the commission I bear, separates me from the grand object of my desire, I am frequently tempted to give it up. During a long, and to me a tedious absence, I have no resource but that of the pen, and can only converse in the language of ideas. Besides, I am often tortured with the dire apprehension that some more fortunate lover may supplant me in the affection of my charmer, and rob me of all my

soul holds dear. But I will not indulge so perplexing a thought, nor harbour a doubt of the constancy of my fair one. Adieu my love, let me hear from you often, as that alone can alleviate the loss of your reviving presence and company.

I am, your's for ever.

L E T T E R C I.

From a young Man on the Expiration of his Apprenticeship, to his Sweetheart in the Neighbourhood.

Dear Dolly,

LONG before I was out of my time, I had a very great regard for you; but fearing you would not approve of an apprentice making love to you, did not think proper to disclose my mind. Now, thank heaven, I am in some sense, my own master; and since I am settled in employment, and can obtain a decent maintenance, I think myself entitled to put the question, and ask you, without ceremony, whether you think you can make yourself happy with me for life? I have now told you my mind in plain terms; and if you approve of what I propose, I will meet you at my cousin's next Sunday, when we will talk the matter over together seriously. Leave a line at my lodgings.

I am, your sincere Lover, &c.

L E T T E R C II.

The Answer.

Dear Jack,

YOUR letter came safe to hand; it puzzles me much, as I know you men promise a great deal before marriage, but perform very little after it. I should have no objection to marry, if I thought I might trust you. I cannot at present fix any resolution concerning the offer you make me, but must leave it to further consideration. If I can be spared after dinner,

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ner, I will meet you on Sunday according to your appointment, and then we may have time to talk on the matter at leisure. I beg you will keep this a secret from every body, as you will otherwise greatly displease

Your humble servant, &c.

L E T T E R CIII.

Expostulating with a Father on the Effects arising from Matches, where there is great Disparity of Age.

Honoured Sir,

I Am, I trust, fully persuaded of the obedience I owe to your commands in every instance that concerns me. Duty and gratitude point out the necessity of submitting myself to your will and pleasure in all things, though the consequences might prove not only disagreeable but even injurious. You have laid your injunctions on me to marry Mr. Steady; I have no reason to doubt the merits of the gentleman of your choice; nevertheless, Sir, you will permit me, with great deference, to represent the disparity of our ages. According to my notion of marriage, there should be a reasonable equality in point of age, as well as agreement in point of opinion, to promote mutual happiness; I therefore humbly think a lady of more advanced years, and general experience, would suit Mr. Steady much better than myself; who, from the gaiety of my temper, can conform no more to his grave notions, than he can to my light airy fancies. Though many proofs I have had of your regard and indulgence on former occasions, encourage me to lay before you this plain state of facts, which I offer to your mature reflection and deliberation, pledging myself chearfully to acquiesce in and abide by the same. If for the sake of an ample fortune, and the pomp and parade attendant thereon, you should be resolutely determined to dispense with the objections I have raised to the match; in short, if you peremptorily insist on my exchanging my happiness, and bartering my peace of mind,

mind, for hoarded treasure, a splendid equipage, and all that can dazzle the eye, I must resign my will to your mandate; but give me leave to tell you, that I cannot be influenced to compliance with so detestable an injunction, by any other motive than that of an inviolable duty to one who has ever yet proved himself the best of fathers; and to whom I will ever prove myself the most obedient of daughters.

L E T T E R CIV.

From a Lady to a Gentleman, on Suspicion of Infidelity.

S I R,

AS nothing dignifies human nature, or shews the man so effectually as an inviolable attachment to the laws of truth and honour, I am very sorry to entertain an opinion of you in any degree derogatory to that exalted character. I need not explain to you the motives for this remark, your conscience must suggest them in a more forcible light than words can describe. There are too many flagrant proofs of your endeavours to ingratiate yourself with Miss Tinsel, notwithstanding your vows so repeatedly and solemnly plighted to me. I call upon you, as a gentleman, to explain yourself; nay, I demand an answer explicit and unprevaricating. I neither am naturally suspicious nor jealous, but I must be indifferent to a degree of folly, to overlook so glaring an affront. Let me hear what you have to say in vindication of this charge, and that shall determine my future resolution.

I am your's, &c.

L E T T E R CV.

From a Lover to a young Widow.

Madam,

THE impression you made on my heart, when I saw you in the course of a journey at Tunbridge, will, I am persuaded, never be totally effaced. In

whatever light you may view this address, it is dictated by truth and sincerity. My connections are respectable, my business extensive, and my finances free from incumbrance. With your permission I will do myself the honour of paying you a visit, and shall deem myself particularly happy in devoting every hour I can spare from the indispensable duties of my profession, to your company and conversation. In a word, if you deem me worthy your serious regard, no endeavour shall be wanting on my part to render your life agreeable and happy. My situation in life being of the mercantile class, my character and circumstances may be easily known; nay, I wish myself to give every satisfactory information. If you will revolve on this, and favour me with your candid sentiments, it will afford the highest satisfaction to

Your sincere admirer, &c.

L E T T E R C V I.

From a Lover to his Mistress, lately recovered from Sicknefs.

My dear Louisa,

FROM the concern I feel for any event which affects your ease and happiness, either in body or mind, your late severe indisposition must have been attended to me with the most painful sensation. But in proportion to the degree of sympathy I possessed when I beheld you languishing in a bed of sickness, do I not exult with heart-felt joy at the happy tidings of your recovery. You can hardly conceive the painful suspense I underwent from the moment I opened the letter, till my eye alighted on the line that blessed me with a confirmation of my hopes. As I trust you are, from numerous instances of my behaviour, thoroughly convinced of my fidelity, I shall use no arguments to enforce what I have declared to you on the occasion, but submit it to your own generous feelings.

Nothing but indispensable business could have prevented my seeing you these three days past, during which

which you have not been one minute absent from my mind. That I may once more be made happy by an interview, I have requested my brother to superintend my affairs for a few days, and propose setting out for your father's country seat immediately on his arrival at my house.

You will receive by the carrier a parcel containing some trifles, of which I desire your acceptance as a token of my esteem, though they are scarcely worth mentioning; but in that light I hope and trust you will cordially receive them, as one whom I hope to call my own. You will present my duty to your honoured parents, and rest assured that I am, and ever shall be,

Your's most affectionately, &c.

L E T T E R CVII.

From a young Lady to a Lover, whose Addresses she was compelled to receive.

S I R,

ON a subject of the highest moment to my peace and happiness, probably during life, you must permit me to be very plain and explicit. By some means or other you prevailed with both my parents to lay a positive injunction on me to receive your addresses. You cannot but observe in me, on those occasions, a kind of reserve and ambiguity in behaviour and conversation: I confess the same with open sincerity, as I do the cause, which is an absolute aversion to your proposal of marriage. Now, Sir, as I have been so ingenuously frank with you, and thereby endeavoured to prevent you from the prosecution of a design which tends to the destruction of your peace as well as mine; I think it incumbent on you, in return, to resign your pretences, and thereby exempt me from the disagreeable necessity of incurring the displeasure of those, whom I am bound to obey. I am engaged to the man whose society alone can make me happy; what felicity then can you reasonably propose to yourself, from preferring your suit to me, whose heart is already

in the possession of another? Would you wish to have a partner imposed on you for life, to whom your absence would be infinitely preferable to your converse? Surely to a man of sense and feeling it must be inconceivably shocking to experience a constant return of cold disgust for all the assiduities of the tenderest endearments. But I leave you to consider the matter at leisure, persuaded, that if you can once summon reason to your aid, you will detach your affections from an object so totally unworthy, and transfer them to some yielding fair, who may be duly sensible of your merit.

I am, Sir, your humble servant.

L E T T E R CVIII.

*To a Friend, on Marriage with a Lady of Beauty
without Fortune.*

Dear Sir,

THE purport of your request in your last friendly epistle puzzles me very much, as a point of all others the most difficult to determine. The struggle lies, it seems, between passion and interest. You are enraptured with the charms of a fine woman; and can only make her your own at the hazard of being disinherited by your father, who peremptorily forbids the banns. Intricate as the case is, there are but two objects of choice, either to live with the lady on bare love, or to live without her on a good solid thousand pounds a year. Present inclination in the heyday of the blood doubtless prompts you to the former; but that can last but a transient month or two, when your affection will certainly chill without the aid of the latter. Besides, the estate once lost, is irreparable; while a substitute may most easily be procured in lieu of the woman. This is a doctrine I know by no means consonant with the romantic system of love; but I presume it is founded on reason, experience, and common sense. Comply then with your father's will, and take your leave of the lady as politely as you can.

Thus

Thus have I, with the freedom of a friend, briefly given my sentiments on the subject; I pretend not to more wisdom than my neighbours, though I think I have said all that can be said on the occasion. Leaving you to adopt or reject at pleasure,

I am your's sincerely, &c.

L E T T E R CIX.

To a Lady, who conceived herself slighted.

Dearest Sophia,

THE reflection of what passed between us at our last interview, and the gloom which overspread your lovely countenance on parting, give me almost insupportable torture. But what mind can conceive, what pen describe my anguish at the receipt of your cruel mandate, never to see or write to you more? Nothing can be farther from my thought than the idea of treating you with the least degree of neglect; but to offer you an affront, could not possibly enter within my breast. An unguarded expression, light joke, or airy repartee, might drop from my tongue; but I would with rather to be deprived of the faculty of speech, than utter a word that should wound the bosom of my fair. Deign then to believe this sincere declaration; let the tumult subside that mistake may have raised, let former complacency be restored, and the sincerest of admirers re-admitted to that place in your heart, he flattered himself he once possessed.

I am, your's for ever.

L E T T E R CX.

From a Lady of small Fortune to a Gentleman, who, by his Manner, appeared to address her on dishonourable Views.

S I R,

AFTER weighing maturely the particulars of your late address, permit me to acquaint you with my positive determination. That I love you

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I will not dissemble; but at the same time I will not hesitate to declare, that I can banish the passion from my breast the moment I am convinced your designs are dishonourable. I once flattered myself with the delusive hope of being your wife, but find there is a barrier between me and that honour in the person of a haughty dame of affluent fortune. As I am neither destitute I trust (though a woman) of reason or spirit, I will venture to argue with you a little closely on a point that nearly concerns us both.

Though the generality of you men admit that riches alone cannot render you happy, you as generally give up every thing which stands in competition with riches. Hence you barter solid good in reversion for ideal gratification in immediate but transitory possession. According to this maxim, you would wish to discard me [unless I basely condescend to demean myself], to give place to a woman in an honourable way, not for the sake of what she is, but what she possesses. Reflect a moment on the natural consequences of such a proceeding, and then judge of its probable tendency. A woman, who has every ground to be assured you make her your wife upon the score of fortune alone, will expect, nay, demand, a precedence in attendance and behaviour, as an equivalent for the dowry she brings; while, in the other respect, the woman to whom you generously give your hand on the noble and disinterested principle of affection, will shew you all that tenderness and obedience with which gratitude can inspire a character of honour and virtue. In the former instance you will never know the pleasure of conferring or receiving a benefit, in the latter you will have the heart-felt satisfaction of laying a constant obligation on a grateful mind. This, I humbly presume, is the true state of the case; consider before you resolve; if you will deign to honour me with your hand, it shall be the study of my life to requite the obligation; but if otherwise, you harbour so despicable a thought as to maintain me as an abandoned mistress, never let me see or hear from you more.

I am, Sir, your's as you prove.

L E T.

L E T T E R CXI.

From a Maid-servant to her Parents, asking their Consent to her Marriage.

Honoured Father and Mother,

I Remember your last charge to me upon coming up to town, was never to think of entering into the state of matrimony without asking your advice and consent. In obedience to your commands I therefore take the liberty to acquaint you, that Mr. Thomas Trueman, a wheelwright in the next street, has taken a liking to me, and offered to make me his wife, if I was willing to change my condition. From all I can learn, he bears a good character, and is well to do in the world: I have asked my master and mistress their opinion of Mr. Trueman; they seem to approve of the match, and think he will prove a good careful husband. I told him all my fortune was a good pair of hands, and a willingness to do my utmost; and he declared himself satisfied. I shall not consent till I obtain your leave and blessing, as becomes

Your dutiful Daughter.

L E T T E R CXII.

The Answer.

Dear Nanny,

YOUR kind and dutiful letter gives us great pleasure, and much comfort in our old age. It is very expensive and inconvenient for us to come up to London, so we can only give you our blessing upon all undertakings, and leave every thing to your own prudence, and the advice of your friends. As you seem to give a good account of Mr. Trueman, and your master and mistress think well of the match, we can have no objection. Let us know when the wedding is to be, and we will send you a turkey and chine, with some trifles of goods to begin housekeeping, which is the

the little all we can afford. We join in love to Mr. Trueman, and respects to your master and mistress, and are with hearty prayers for your welfare,

Your loving Father and Mother.

L E T T E R CXIII.

From the Daughter, acquainting her Parents with the Day appointed for Marriage..

Honoured Father and Mother,

ACcording to promise I beg leave to acquaint you, that our marriage-day is fixed for next Monday, and that I am to go home to him the Saturday following. I should not have been in such haste for marriage, but the moment I told Mr. Trueman I had your consent, he said that was sufficient, and he would stay no longer. My master and mistress, who were always good to me, have promised me five guineas above my wages, which, with what little I have saved, will go some way towards beginning the world. Don't hurt yourselves out of regard to me; you are old and want comfort, I am young and willing to work. Mr. Trueman joins with me in love and duty, and with me asks your blessings on us both. We are, with respects to all friends,

Your dutiful Daughter that is, and
Son that shortly will be.

L E T T E R CXIV.

From a Lover, requesting the Interposition of the Lady's Aunt.

Dear Madam,

PErswaded of the just influence you have over the mind of your niece, especially in all matters of importance, I must humbly request the favour of your being my advocate with the young lady, in recommending me to her good opinion. When opportunity offered I have frequently endeavoured to disclose my mind,

mind, but the moment I was ready to break out in a rapture of affection, my tears overcame me, and deprived me of all resolution. Distant hints, indeed, I have given on divers occasions, but these I am certain are wholly insufficient to effect the much-desired purpose; the mighty secret still swells within my bosom, nor can I enjoy a moment's peace, till it has vent. Deign then, Madam, to anticipate my hopes, by preparing her tender mind for the profession of the sincerest passion that ever warmed the breast of a lover. In respect to education, fortune, and birth, I presume, upon enquiry, my claim to her regard will not be invalidated; and could I be so happy as to be honoured with a line from your hand, purporting your generous concurrence, I shall be made the happiest of mortals. Pardon the liberty I take, and believe me to be, with the profoundest respect, dear Madam,

Your obliged and devoted servant.

L E T T E R CXV.

The Answer, complying with the Request in the foregoing.

S I R,

I Received your's, and having considered the particulars, have no objection to the favour you request, as the manner in which you express your desire convinces me of your modesty, which I ever regard as allied to good sense. I shall take the first opportunity of opening your case to my niece, in a stile and manner that I presume will be of no disadvantage to you. The result must be left to the discretion of the lady, whose inclination, as a person of prudence and discernment, will have due influence with me, and her friends in general. I have reason to think her affections are at present disengaged, as she keeps no secret from me, and never gave the most distant hint on the subject of love. Whoever shall prove the object of her choice, I must say, without partiality, will find in her a partner worthy of supreme regard.

I am, Sir, your friend and servant.

L E T-

L E T T E R CXVI.

From the same, on the Lover's being rejected.

S I R,

I Fulfilled my promise in recommending you to the favourable opinion of my niece, who, I am sorry to inform you, desires you will desist from your purpose, as she is not at present disposed to attend to addresses of that nature. I sincerely wish you better success on a future occasion, and am, Sir,

Your humble servant.

L E T T E R CXVII.

From a Father to his Daughter, disapproving of too early Marriage.

Dear Nancy,

I Am much concerned to express my surprize, not to say resentment, at the purport of your last letter, which I must plainly assure you has not a little degraded you in my opinion. Long had I flattered myself you inherited the prudence and discretion of your dear mother, till I received a melancholy proof to the contrary, in your wantonly desiring to throw yourself away at the age of seventeen. Your intimation of expecting a fortune from me on the occasion exceeds all bounds of common respect and gratitude, as if you considered it the absolute duty of a father to confer obligations without any claim of desert on the part of the child. I cannot approve of the proposal in any one instance; your age and inexperience, the character and circumstances of the man you have chosen, are with me insurmountable obstacles; so that as I see inevitable ruin before you, if you follow an idle inclination, I must declare, if you will not be guided by me, you must live without me; if I am not the guardian of your person, you shall not be the dispenser of my property. Receive these hints from an affectionate regard, resign your purpose ere it be too late, nor add to the distress of

Your afflicted Father.

L E T.

L E T T E R CXVIII.

To a Daughter, against permitting the Addresses of a Military Subaltern.

Dear Sally,

I Have heard an account of your conduct, which fills me with equal surprize, concern, and indignation. I hope the very hint will bring a blush upon your face; need I tell you my ears have been stunned with a report, that you have brought disgrace on yourself and family, by encouraging the addresses of Serjeant Drill, who is recruiting in our town. Are there sufficient allurements in a red coat and cockade to entice you to abandon yourself to a wretched vagrant life? Can you submit to the most servile drudgery to add to a miserable pittance for subsistence? Ask yourself these serious questions, and if you can reconcile them, pursue your rash design. Besides, I need but refer you to daily experience; do you not observe the haggard, the tattered appearance of those poor unfortunate creatures, who follow the fate of their husbands in the army, from quarters to camp, and from camp to quarters? Beware then, my child, of hurrying yourself into misery irremedial, nor incumber yourself with a family without the least probable means of supporting them with decency and comfort. This caution proceeds from the sincerest regard and affection; I have hitherto concealed the matter from your uncle, on whom you know you have some dependance; and having discharged my duty, subscribe myself,

Your loving, though afflicted Father, &c.

L E T T E R CXIX.

From a Father to a Daughter, describing three different Characters proposed as a Husband, with his decisive Preference.

Dear Peggy,

TO convince you that you are neither destitute of charms, nor a powerful attraction, this informs you that I am pestered with no less than three applications

tions from friends of mine, in behalf of their respective sons. I shall, before I proceed to recommend, briefly describe their characters; from whence, as you are come to years of discretion, you may judge of the propriety of my choice.

The first applicant is Mr. ADDLE, in behalf of his son ANTHONY. Poor Anthony's head you know is but sparingly furnished, or rather he has no head, a kind of vacuum; so that if you take him, you must in all matters of importance be his representative, and of course both wife and husband; but though I am sensible you are not deficient in spirit, I am yet persuaded you would not wish to aspire above your character, nor would be wedded to any thing less than a man, and so I dismissed Mr. ANTHONY ADDLE.

The next in rotation is Mr. HAIRBRAIN, for his son Harry. This polite, fashionable young gentleman, from a course of debauchery, extravagance, and every kind of dissipation, has equally impoverished his finances and his reputation; and his head is as weak as his heart is corrupt. To recommend him to your countenance, the father tells me he prefers you to all the women he ever saw; to which I replied, it was my opinion you was equally averse to a coxcomb and a debauchee, and then bid my friend HAIRBRAIN a good day.

The last who recommended the suit of his son was my very old acquaintance Mr. SOUNDBOTTOM. Sam possesses two excellent qualities, honour and honesty; his character is fair, his fortune competent, his business established. There is one objection, indeed, which is a disparity of years; for I believe SAM SOUNDBOTTOM, junior, is turned of fifty.

These are the three claimants, and your own good sense must dictate your choice: I ventured to pass my opinion as to the two first, and I believe you will coincide with me; might I advise in the case, my election, as you must suppose, would fall on the last. I could wish there was a nearer agreement in years; but the objection will vanish, when a man of respectable character is put in competition with that of an idiot, or a rake. Greater considerations must give way to
lesser,

leffer, in which case we infer the propriety of closing with the last proposal. Consider deliberately, and then you cannot but determine well.

I am, your affectionate Father.

L E T T E R CXX.

The Daughter's Reply.

Honoured Sir,

I Have long been persuaded, from a course of experience in numerous instances of your affection, judgment and knowledge, and am therefore disposed in all concerns to resign myself to your commands. But I know your candour and liberality of principle, will admit of my expostulating with you on a point on which my happiness so essentially depends.

I return you thanks for peremptorily rejecting the two first overtures, and as to the last, give me leave to put in my exception.

As in my opinion Mr. Soundbottom's solid years and judgment will not agree with those innocent levities that are almost inseparable from my time of life, I would wish to avoid a match that would in any degree produce mutual disgust, which in that instance must be the case. For, Sir, you must be sensible, that a likeness of years must be attended with a likeness of humours, inclinations, &c. and so on the contrary, such dispositions and propensities can never be expected, when the disparity is near double the number of years. I would by no means detract from the merit of the person you recommend, of which I am as fully persuaded as yourself; and therefore as a friend esteem and honour him, but have too much regard for him to become his wife, as an event that would be attended with consequences equally disagreeable to him, to you, and to myself.

I remain,

Your dutiful daughter, &c.

L E T.

L E T T E R CXXI.

From a Lover determined from Jealousy to abandon the Lady.

Madam,

AS fool and dotard are characters equally despicable, I must beg leave to renounce the lover, and warn you never to expect my visits more. I once thought the cause of this intimation as improbable, as the writing of it impossible; you must know what I feel when I imposed such a task on myself. I would not be thus peremptory, were I not determined to abide by my resolution. I can never share a heart with any man. Mr. Wheedle has a tongue, and I had ocular proofs of its pliant effect upon you. To report I never give credit, but cannot withstand the conviction of demonstration; so that I finally take my leave, desiring to be consigned to eternal oblivion.

I am,

Your humble servant.

L E T T E R CXXII.

From a Gentleman in Affluence, to a Lady of Beauty with no Fortune.

Miss Cecilia,

IN this age of luxury and dissipation, in which riches are too generally esteemed the only good, I am sensible, that in marriage treaties little regard is had to accomplishments mental or personal; merit being estimated in proportion to the gifts of fortune. From this cause have arisen many evils domestic and social, parties being hurried into matches that have proved fatal to themselves and families; whereas if deference was paid to character and inclination, infinite advantage would result to society. It ever has, and shall be with me a maxim to consult my own happiness; and as, thank Heaven, I have a competent independance, money shall never stand between me and one main object of

of my existence. The occasional converse I have had with you at Lady Harriott's, amongst other instances, is a proof of what I advanced concerning the falsely supposed power and efficacy of riches; that a woman may possess every ornamental quality, without being favoured by fortune with the additional recommendation of money. In my eye, opinion and judgment, you can render him compleatly blessed to whom you give your hand; and as I hope you have no objection to my person or character, say but the word, and I will make you mine for your own sake alone; and endeavour, by every endearment, to compensate for the ills you may have experienced from the frowns of fortune. I wait your answer with impatience, and am,

Dear Cecilia,

Your's most affectionately, &c.

L E T T E R CXXIII.

From a Young Lady to an officious Go-between.

Mrs. Commode,

I Must beg leave to return you enclosed the letter you put into my hands, and desire to be free from your impertinent officiousness in future. I rely entirely on the wisdom and integrity of my guardian, and submit every proposal made to me to his superior knowledge and judgment. He has read mankind; I am as yet a stranger in the world. That man shall ever be held by me in contempt, who endeavours by clandestine or any indirect means to procure my esteem. As you may not have any sinister view in this first attempt, I shall not disclose it to my guardian, but beware of a second.

I am, your's, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R CXXIV.

At the Instance of a Young Lady, to a troublesome and presumptuous Suitor.

S I R,

I Find, notwithstanding your repeated applications to Miss Benville have been treated with the contemptuous silence they deserve, you have still the effrontery to harrafs that lady with your impertinent letters. To prevent your rhapsodical nonsense from offending her in future, I am requested to assure you, that she will never deign you the least notice, regard, or even an answer; so that your trouble will be wholly fruitless and vain. Give me leave to add one piece of advice: if you should ever write on the same occasion, let your productions be more on the level of human understanding.

I am, your's, &c.

UNKNOWN.

L E T T E R CXXV.

To the same Purpose, couched in milder Terms.

S I R,

I Am authorized by Miss Benwell to acknowledge, in the politest terms, the compliments you have been pleased to pay her, and request you would give yourself no further trouble on that head; as such addressees are equally inconvenient and disagreeable.

Your's, &c.

UNKNOWN.

L E T T E R CXXVI.

On the Subject of Matrimony to a Lady of Speculation.

Madam,

THERE is not a topic in which mankind are more divided, or err more in opinion, than that of matrimony. People in common think the institution

tion good or bad, as they find persons linked by its chain happy or miserable ; but a grosser mistake cannot exist. The institution is invariably the same sacred, beneficial and salutary, essential to the good order of society, the ascertaining the right of property, and the due education of the rising generation. Many advantages in a moral sense are likewise derived from this very important institution. Perverse dispositions and vicious habits in men, have been often reformed by the virtuous examples and salutary admonitions of well disposed and affectionate women ; as have termagant tempers and profuse habits, by the forbearance and gentle admonition of prudent and dispassionate husbands ; in which cases they certainly become blessings to each other. Experience also proves, that the most salutary changes have been wrought in the mind by the effects of wedlock ; so that it is evident, matrimony is equally serviceable to the cause of religion as of society, and should therefore be held in veneration by all ranks and degrees of men, according to those excellent lines of Milton :

Hail wedded love ! mysterious law, true source
Of human offspring ! sole propriety
In paradise, of all things common else !
By thee adult'rous lust was driv'n from man
Among the bestial herds to range : By thee
Founded in reason, loyal, just, and pure,
Relations dear, and all the charities
Of father, son, and brother first were known !
Perpetual fountain of domestic sweets !
Here Love his golden shafts employs ; here lights
His constant lamp, and waves his purple wings :
Here reigns and revels not in the bought smiles
Of harlots, loveless, joyless, unendear'd,
Casual fruition ; nor in court amours,
Mix'd dance, or wanton mask, or midnight ball
Of serenade, which the starv'd lover sings
To his proud fair, best quitted with disdain.

You, ma'am, are an eminent example of the doctrine I have endeavoured to establish ; possessing every personal, social, and domestic virtue that can contribute to the felicity of your husband, the ornament of your sex,
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the interests of mankind, and the honour of human nature.

I am, with profoundest respect,

Your humble servant.

L E T T E R CXXVII.

From a Daughter, pleading in Behalf of her Sister, who had married without Consent of her Father.

Honoured Sir,

I Am so affected by the extreme regret and concern my sister discovers for having offended you, in giving her hand to Mr. Goodwill, that I cannot but presume to plead in her behalf. She is as sensible of your kind indulgence as ever, and hopes, that as there is every ground to believe her husband will fulfil the duties of the married state as becomes a man and a Christian, you will banish former prejudices, and re-admit them to your favour and affectionate regard. Consider, dear Sir, the bond cannot be dissolved; rigour may sour the husband's temper, and render of course my poor sister miserable; whereas your pardon and reconciliation will soothe him into complacency, and promote their mutual happiness. All I can say is, she wishes for an opportunity of imploring your pardon and blessing, to restore her to that peace of mind she is conscious of forfeiting by disobedience. Excuse the liberty I take in interposing; she is my sister, I feel her woes as my own, and cannot be happy till they are relieved by your tenderness.

I am,

Your ever dutiful daughter.

L E T T E R CXXVIII.

From a young Merchant to a Lady, with whom he became enamoured on seeing her at a Place of public Entertainment.

Madam,

THIS address from an absolute stranger will doubtless surprize you; but I hope from that complacency of countenance which is the cause of it, you will vouchsafe your pardon. Indeed you must permit me to entreat forgiveness for the great liberty I took in so particularly observing you yesterday evening, when I sat the next box to you at the tea-gardens. In a word, my behaviour on the occasion was the effect of irresistible impulse; I beheld, I loved you with the warmest of passions. Conscious of the integrity of my designs, I acquaint you with my occupation and residence: I am in partnership with Mr. Neave, a West India merchant in Broad-street; my situation at present is advantageous, and, with the blessing of Providence, I have every probable view of increase. If you are not pre-engaged, I should be extremely happy in the honour of visiting you; in the mean time, I refer you to the neighbourhood for any enquiry you may deem necessary.

I am, Madam,

Your devoted humble servant.

L E T T E R CXXIX.

From the Lady's Cousin, in Answer to the above.

Dear Sir,

AT the desire of Miss Maria Courtney, I inform you, that your polite address came safe to hand; and I apprehend, that her referring the matter to the advice and opinion of her friends will not lessen your esteem. Besides, had she undertaken to have returned an immediate answer herself, prudence and modesty

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must

must rather have inclined to the negative, which there is reason to imagine she would wish to avoid. Your letter bespeaks you a gentleman and a man of honour, as was corroborated on enquiry, according to the permission you gave. My cousin has some fortune, and if I have any skill in physiognomy, I think she beheld you last night with a favourable eye, from whence I conjecture she will not be very averse to seeing you.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

T. C.

L E T T E R CXXX.

From a Lady newly married to her Female Friend, in Answer to a Letter, wherein the latter had ridiculed the Formalities of a Marriage State.

Madam,

I Am conscious of the rectitude of my conduct, nor am I to be diverted from those pursuits on which depend my peace and happiness, by all the wit and humour that you can boast. I glory in the name of wife, and my chief concern is to please the man I love, who repays me in turn with the tenderest assiduities. As our love is mutual, our kind offices are reciprocal; and while I experience every testimony of the sincerest affection, I am willing to be obedient; not from command, but voluntary choice. Your pleasant raillery on marriage I am pretty confident, is not the language of the heart; you would wish to make a conquest; be ingenuous and acknowledge it; the confession is honourable, nor can all your affectation disguise your real design. I am as sincerely your friend as ever, and therefore must desire you not to judge erroneously, or speak contemptuously of a state to which you are as yet a stranger. Puny wits will ridicule serious subjects: marriage and the clergy are their constant themes; but I am not ashamed to say I have derived great entertainment, and much information from the society of our rector, who acts up to his character, and is an ornament

ment to religion and mankind. Thus have I, without reserve, acquainted you with my conduct, opinion, and resolution ; you do not want understanding ; exert it then, and you will agree with me. When you come to yourself, I shall be happy to see you at our seat.

I am,

Your humble servant.

L E T T E R CXXXI.

A modest Declaration of Love from an unknown Lady to a Young Gentleman.

S I R,

AS I hope you are a man of honour, I rely on your liberality, either to comply with or for ever conceal the desire communicated in this epistle by a person unknown. You must permit me then to declare a passion I have entertained for you upwards of a year, and which I have long laboured in vain to subdue. Lest this should fall into improper hands, I thought it prudent not to subscribe my name nor place of residence ; but if you have any curiosity to know particulars, I shall be in Gray's Inn Gardens to-morrow at one o'clock. You will see me on the terrace, dressed in a pompadour silk night gown, and white fatten cloak with ermine. I know you men are generally disposed to ridicule this frankness of behaviour in our sex ; but why not shake off a restraint, that tyrant custom alone imposes contrary to the grand law of nature.

I am, Sir,

Your's, &c.

L E T T E R CXXXII.

From the Same to the Same, on his treating the Application with Contempt and Ridicule.

S I R,

WHEN I addressed you on a former occasion, I relied on your honour and generosity as a gentleman ; sorry am I to find myself totally mistaken in

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your

your character. At the impulse of an irresistible passion, I confess I transgressed the law of custom and ordinary decorum; you illiberally availed yourself of the circumstance to expose and ridicule me; in return for which I frankly tell you, that I hold you equally unworthy my love, and beneath my resentment. You are now as much the object of my contempt as you was before of my affection. Your conduct argues a cruelty of mind, vanity of temper, and defect of understanding, which must render you obnoxious to every person of humanity, ingenuity, and good sense. The event, though irksome and disagreeable as it was at first, will teach me, I hope, a useful lesson, never more to place my affections on the person of a man, till I have convincing proofs of the beauties of his mind. It also furnishes me with an evidence of my own weakness and folly, in lavishing my esteem upon an object so totally undeserving. As you have already exposed my former letter, I demand, in justice, that you make this as public, or I will cause it to be dispersed throughout the whole circle of your acquaintance, by means of a friend unknown to you, who is perfectly acquainted with all your connexions.

As a slighted Correspondent, this is the second and last time I shall trouble you; but rest assured, no pains shall be spared to publish to the world, as a caution to our sex in general, that you are a coxcomb; and therefore, instead of respect, ought to be treated with the most distinguished contempt.

Adieu.

L E T T E R CXXXIII.

From a Lover to a Lady who discouraged his Addresses.

Madam,

WHAT language shall I adopt, what arguments shall I use, to sooth you into pity and compassion for the most wretched of human beings? If the supreme desire of my soul centers in your happiness; if all the faculties of person and mind are devoted to

your service; if, in short, I live but in you, such ardent affection deserves surely the return of grateful love, and that you should relieve a heart bursting with the agonies of despair. Your presence fills my thoughts, engrosses all my attention, and steals me as it were from myself; and yet, to my grief and disappointment, my addresses are treated by you as impertinent, and my tenderest solicitations as troublesome and disgusting. I have no ground of my peace being restored but in your compassion, which by extending, you would add more to your triumph, than can possibly result from the exercise of tyranny over your devoted slave. Extend then your mercy, attend to the prayer of the most importunate of suppliants, and rescue me from the most miserable of all conditions, that of loving without being beloved.

I am your's for ever to command, &c.

L E T T E R CXXXIV.

To a young married Lady from her Aunt, shewing domestic Rule to be the Prerogative of the Sex in the married State.

Dear Lucy,

AS you are lately entered into the honourable state of matrimony, and yet but young and inexperienced, you will give me leave to explain one of your peculiar privileges; an attention to which you will find of essential service in the course of your future life. The right of superintending domestic concerns in general, is, by the law of nature, vested in the woman. The business of the family should engross our attention, and indeed employ the whole of our time, except that which for the sake of health, is devoted to innocent relaxation. If we apply to this necessary duty, we must understand its respective branches much better than men, who have many other objects to employ their care and thoughts. In the œconomy of the house, we are certainly qualified for the exercise of dominion, whatever they may affirm to the contrary. When a man encroaches on the prerogative of the wife, and pretends

to judge of things, concerning which, from the nature of his peculiar avocations, he must be wholly ignorant, he reflects disgrace on both parties, and incurs the ridicule and contempt of the family. But when a woman of sense and prudence is allowed to direct her family without controul, all things will be found to go well; the servants are kept in due subordination, and a general harmony prevails through the house. I have observed with concern, many of our sex inclined to neglect their domestic affairs for the pursuit of matters of far inferior moment; and have known many instances, in which such inattention to this particular duty has brought on most fatal consequences. The woman, in this particular system of œconomy, must either govern or be governed; she must either direct her servants, or be directed by them. The power of rule seems to be naturally and equally divided between the husband and wife. The management of property and direction of business is the sole province of the husband, and if he surrenders that, he unmans himself; the conduct of all the house affairs is vested as absolutely in the wife, and if she parts with it, she resigns her privilege; nor will any wise man marry a woman who is not well versed in this department of her duty. Therefore, my dear Lucy, as you know your privilege, see that you maintain and exercise it as becomes a good wife.

I am,

Your affectionate Aunt, &c.

L E T T E R CXXXV.

*From a Gentleman in London to his Lady in the Country,
on the Happiness of a domestic matrimonial Life.*

Dear Isabella,

HA V I N G led with you a country life so many years, without almost a separation, it might naturally be imagined, that this variation of scene would afford such high diversion and entertainment, as to incline to a desire of its long continuance; but believe me, I am already so disgusted with the bustle, noise, and vanity of this turbulent town, that in a few days I
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am determined to return to the country, there to participate the unfulfilled delights of domestic matrimonial felicity.

As similitude of disposition is the very soul of connubial bliss, we have been peculiarly fortunate in possessing correspondent inclinations, which produce that harmony I hope will ever subsist between us. A man of my turn must have been wretched with what the fashionable world now terms a good wife, merely from inheriting some negative virtues. Many a pair are now thought happy, if the wife preserves the law of chastity, and the husband refrains from severity of discipline and opprobrious epithets. The bulk of mankind have no idea of mental pleasures, incorporeal gratifications, or the joys arising from being with those they love, secluded from mortal eye, and breathing the balmy sweets of the fragrant bower. I know not a woman in the world so adapted, in every instance, to render me superlatively blest, as my Isabella; in whose person and mind every accomplishment centers, that can heighten social enjoyment. I long to be with you again, that I may give you farther proofs of the sincerity and cordiality with which I have been, and ever will be,

Your's, &c.

L E T T E R CXXXVI.

To a Young Lady, on her admitting the Addresses of a professed Rake.

Dear Cousin,

AS I have a sincere regard for your person and character, you will pardon the liberty I take, in remonstrating with you on one instance of your want of prudence, which, if not corrected, cannot fail bringing disgrace on yourself and family. Report talks largely of your connexion with Mr. Rover; nay, you seem to take pains to confirm the truth of it, by being seen with him so frequently in public, and at hours very improper for persons of discretion and character. It is well known Mr. Rover has already ruined two girls of

very respectable parents, from which there is reason to conclude he has the same villainous design upon you. This information I give you from the most friendly motives, and beg you would avail yourself of it, by rejecting the addresses of a man notorious for infamy, and destroying the peace of families as well as individuals. Rover is a lying babbler, regardless of his words and actions, and would sacrifice truth, honour, and every thing sacred, to gratify the vilest of inclinations. I make no doubt, but you are guardian sufficient for the preservation of your own virtue; and could wish you as careful to maintain your reputation, which, if you persevere in the imprudent conduct I have represented, may sustain an irreparable injury. Reflect, therefore, seriously on the purport of these lines, and your own feelings must dictate their propriety.

I am, your faithful Friend,
and affectionate Kinsman.

L E T T E R CXXXVII.

From a Gentleman, declining his Suit after a Series of unsuccessful Addresses.

Madam,

RECEIVE, without emotion of displeasure, this my last, and, I believe, most acceptable epistle. Having long laboured in vain to recommend myself to your favour, I must at length decline all further efforts; nor would I have tired you with so many repeated applications, had I not conceived hopes of success from the intimation of your brother and sister. But these are now entirely banished, as are those expectations that were vainly founded on my own presumption. I will no longer intrude on your patience, having only to assure you of my wishes, that the man of your choice may love you as ardently as I have done, and be as warmly attached to your welfare and happiness as I have been. These I considered as inseparable from

from my own, and once indulged a fond prospect of securing the one by contributing to the other; but that you have totally put out of my power.

I am, Madam,

With great respect,

Your obedient servant, &c.

L E T T E R CXXXVIII.

From a Young Lady, congratulating a Friend on her Marriage.

Dear Madam,

I Rejoice to hear of the consummation of your happiness, in being joined in wedlock to the man of your heart. Indeed I could not apprehend the blissful period was so near, and flattered myself with the hope of being consulted as to the choice of silks, ribbons, laces, and other matters necessary for the ceremony. But that I find is past and gone, as are all my long concerted schemes; nevertheless, I sincerely congratulate you on the important event. May you live long together in uninterrupted felicity, may prosperity attend all your undertakings, and waft you through this scene of life in perfect ease and tranquillity. It affords me singular satisfaction to hear that your spouse bears so excellent a character, a circumstance that must greatly contribute to domestic peace and worldly success. Present him my best respects, and assure him, that I wish him all that his heart can desire, and that he may ever continue to deserve so charming a bride. In fine, may you long remain shining examples of love and constancy, and transmit to posterity a complete pattern of connubial bliss.

I am, your's, &c.

L E T T E R CXXXIX.

From a Gentleman to a supposed Coquette.

Madam,

NO man can be more sensible of mental or personal charms in your sex than your humble servant, nor more heartily despise a disposition that reflects disgrace on the most accomplished beauty. This profession you may be inclined to take to yourself, and if you are conscious of its being properly adapted, it will afford me some hope of effecting a reformation. The qualities you possess, can never justify a conduct repugnant to that decorum and decency which are the greatest ornaments of your nature. I addressed you on honourable terms; thought you mine, and mine only, from attachment of principle; but as I find you are constantly followed by a swarm of butterflies, I entirely resign you to those who have more flattery and less sincerity than

your once devoted servant, &c.

L E T T E R CXL.

The Answer.

S I R,

IF ever you intend to address me again, I must desire you to think before you write, nor trouble me more with your unwarrantable censures of my behaviour. Allow me that right of judging and acting, which you so strenuously contend for yourself. I never courted you to enlist in the train of my admirers, and so you are at your option to withdraw your name whenever you think proper. It may afford me a particular pleasure to see numbers languish at my feet; but why should your resentment be levelled at me for an action in which I am wholly passive? In a word, I will assert my liberty, be mistress of myself, nor be amenable for my conduct to any man upon earth, so long as I am in an independant state. I am, your's, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R CXLI.

In Answer to the foregoing.

Madam,

PURSUANT to your advice, I have deliberated before I presumed to write, and from just reason acknowledge my suspicions to be groundless. I can only plead in my behalf, that they arose from the prevalence of my passion, and upon that principle sue for your pardon. My whole soul is so entirely devoted to you, that even the shadow of contempt becomes intolerable; nor can I bear the most distant idea of a rival in your affections. Since then my faults sprung from you as the cause, punish me not with rigour, but dismiss the subject with a gentle rebuke; and let me be restored to that favour I prize more than life, and all other its most invaluable blessings.

I am and ever must be,

Your devoted admirer, &c.

L E T T E R CXLII.

From a Young Woman to a Lady, with whom she had formerly lived as a Companion.

Dear Madam,

I Am persuaded you must blame me for the sudden manner in which I left your family, where I met with such singular respect and civility, till you hear the real cause of my behaviour, and then I hope your good sense and candour will generously acquit me. It was then, Madam, nothing less than a regard for my reputation, as you will understand by the following account. You know whilst in your family, from first to last, I endeavoured to behave myself so as to avoid giving offence to the meanest of your domestics, which secured me a general good will, respectable behaviour, and rendered my life comfortable and happy. But alas! this desirable state was of short duration; being

interrupted by an event, that I blush to mention; because, though it clears up my conduct, it impeaches that of your nearest and dearest relation. I must then plainly tell you, that your son Sir William, when he last came up to spend the holidays with you, seized every opportunity of being in my company; but as I never gave him the least encouragement, at length he proposed making me a handsome settlement on certain conditions I need not mention, as they must be apparent to you from the nature of the case. As he became more and more pressing for my compliance, I repulsed him with greater resolution, till, for the sake of your reputation as well as my own, I was obliged privately and suddenly to leave your house. I am for the present with a friend in Westminster, where I beg your ladyship would be pleased to send my cloaths; wages you know I left to your own discretion, which, with your humanity, ever exceeded my utmost wishes. If you mention this unhappy affair to the young gentleman, let me intreat you not to be severe, but use your accustomed tendernefs. I rather think it the effect of youthful passion than premeditated design; and as I still hope he possesses a good disposition at the bottom, am of opinion, when he reflects, he will be sorry for the attempt, and reform his conduct in future. I am, with the utmost gratitude and esteem, Madam,

Your much obliged, and
most humble servant, &c.

LETTER CXLIII.

The Lady's Answer.

Dear Caroline,

I Know not which to applaud most upon this unfortunate occasion, your virtuous resolution or candid behaviour, which are worthy of being recorded as an honour and pattern to your sex. As the most effectual means of bringing my son to a due sense and conviction of his crime, I thought proper to read your letter to him; and can assure you, that it so affected his mind

as to extort a genuine confession of his guilt; for which I have reason to conclude him a sincere penitent, unless I judge with the partiality of a fond mother. I laid open to him the nature of his crime, and used such arguments as brought him to a full sense of his folly, and a determination never to attempt the like in future. The bearer will deliver your cloaths: inclosed you will receive a note for an hundred pounds, as a pledge of my present and future regard; and rest assured, that you may at all times command my best services. “Be virtuous and be happy.”

Adieu!

L E T T E R CXLIV.

From a Lady to her Friend, whose Lover had falsely abandoned her, and married another.

My dearest Henrietta,

I Know, from my own feelings, it is extremely difficult to administer either comfort or advice to a person in your particular situation; nay, I cannot tell but the very attempt may be deemed impertinent. Nevertheless, at all events, I will venture, as I think you have hitherto imputed my every action to real friendship and sincere good will; give me leave then, my dear, to observe that the grand cause of disappointment in our hopes of happiness, arises from placing our expectations upon improper and improbable objects. 'This I fear has been your case, and I am certain is not your's alone, for our sex are peculiarly liable to this mischief; and though they see its fatal consequences with respect to others, they are still allured by the same bait, till, insensible of the danger, they too often fall unpitied and disregarded.

You ought, my dear friend, to rejoice at the happy deliverance, and look upon it as a providential escape; for without doubt, he who proved so base a lover to the best of mistresses, would have made an intolerable husband to the best of wives; and his ill usage in that state,

state, would have been much worse than his infidelity in the former. I am very sensible a mind so susceptible of impression as your's, cannot easily eradicate the idea of a favourite object; that must be a work of time; yet I hope and trust, reason and reflection will at length effect that arduous though desirable task. Do not aggravate the misfortune, by accusing yourself with weakness and folly, in being so grossly imposed upon; but consider it as our common fate, as I before observed; and if it serves as a future warning to you, the event will hereafter be remembered with pleasure, as conducive to your happiness, by exempting you from an evil, that would probably have rendered you miserable during the whole course of your future life. Pardon the liberty I have taken, as it proceeds from the sincerest motive of friendship, and a most ingenuous concern for your welfare.

I am,

Your's most sincerely, now and ever, &c.

L E T T E R CXLV.

The Answer.

Dear Madam,

SO far from censuring, I think it a duty incumbent on me, to return you my unfeigned thanks for the friendly admonition and consolation with which you favoured me in your last kind letter; and as the only amends I can make for the same, permit me to assure you, that I receive them with cordiality, and will do my utmost endeavour to reduce them to practice. Thank God, the impression daily wears off, and reason begins to ascend its throne; which, added to the aid of religion, will, I hope, perfectly effect the cure, and prevent my relapsing into the delirium for the future. I can say with the wise man, respecting real happiness in this imperfect state, "all is vanity and vexation of spirit," and am determined to submit to every dispensation of Providence, as designed for the best of purposes, throughout the whole system of creation.

I am, dear Madam, your sincere friend.

T H E

T H E N E W
L E T T E R W R I T E R.

P A R T V.
On FRIENDSHIP, &c.

L E T T E R CXLVI.
On Friendship in general. To a Friend.

Dear Sir,

N O consideration affords me more satisfaction upon reflection, than the amity which has subsisted between us from a very early period in life, to the present moment. Men of little minds and contracted ideas imagine, that there is no such thing existing in this world as real friendship; but if we have recourse to the best writers, ancient and modern, we shall find it coeval with the first formation of society, and that it constitutes the very perfection of human nature. The learned Dr. Watts, eminently distinguished both as Poet and Divine, thus beautifully describes this most exalted attribute:

Friendship, thou charmer of the mind,
Thou sweet deluding ill;
The brightest moments mortals find,
And sharpest pains we feel.

Fate

Fate has divided all our shares,
Of pleasure and of pain ;
In love the friendship and the cares
Are mix'd and join'd again.

But to return ; where real friendship subsists there will be a mutual sympathy between the parties ; they will lay open their minds to each other, disclose the inmost secrets of their souls, and be susceptible of pleasure or pain, as events in the course of life may be prosperous or adverse. This divine attribute seems to be ordained by the all-bountiful Parent for the peculiar good of his rational creatures, to whom this world, but for its exercise, would be as a wilderness, desert and forlorn ; nay man, as a social being by nature, must have a desire and capacity for friendship ; nor is there a state or condition in life where it is not essentially necessary to happiness. With respect to ourselves, it has long continued uninterrupted, unalloyed : you, indeed, have been enabled by Providence to confer the benefits ; whilst I, in an humble sphere, was ordained to receive ; but your good offices are performed in such a manner, as to bespeak the generous motives by which these are actuated. Indeed, I can hardly propose to you a service, without thinking I oblige you in so doing. In my declining age I derive extraordinary comfort from our intercourse, which supports me amidst the impair of decaying nature, and enables me to enjoy life, as it were, to its latest period. You are my universal benefactor, the physician of my body and mind ; and continue to convince me, by daily experiment, of the truth of this adage, “ ’Tis better to give than to receive.” That you may enjoy the supreme reward that awaits disinterested friendship and benevolence, is the sincere prayer of

Your affectionate friend, &c.

L E T.

LETTER CXLVII.

Against contracting a Friendship too suddenly.

Dear Jack,

AS, according to the course of years, I must have had more knowledge and experience of men and manners than you can pretend to on merely beginning the world, you will, I am persuaded, take my admonition in good part. Remember then, in the choice of a friend, to have a strict regard to his principles and moral character, to which if you do not particularly attend, you will be exposed to fallacy, delusion, and the most irreparable injuries you can possibly sustain; for it is the universal practice of bad men to assume the mask of friendship, to perpetrate the most atrocious actions. I am induced to write to you on this subject, from a report of your late intimacy with Mr. Decoy, a man whose character is justly suspected. Beware of hasty friendship, and be particularly watchful of his words and actions, lest you find, by woful experience, that his motive in seeking your acquaintance, widely differs from your's in cultivating his. I don't wish to direct your conduct so precisely as to abridge your liberty of choice, but you must permit me to state two considerations necessary for our guidance through life: the one is, that hasty friendships commonly arise from design on the one side, and weakness on the other; the next, that true friendship must be founded on virtue, and be the effect of long and mutual esteem. Observe these remarks, and you will merit the concern of

Your affectionate Kinsman, &c.

LETTER CXLVIII.

On Waste of Time.

Dear Sir,

I Remember a divine under whom I had the honour of pursuing my academical studies, who adopted for his motto,

“DUM

“DUM VIVIMUS, VIVAMUS,
“While we live, let us live:”

Not according to the construction of the Epicure and sensualist, but the man of reason and virtue. Life protracted to its utmost limit is but a short span; and yet upon general observation we shall find, that too great a part of it is spent in doing evil, doing nothing, or doing what we should not do. To ascertain the value of time, it should be properly divided between our duty, religious and social; that is, in acts of piety and devotion to the supreme Creator, and attendance on our respective functions in life, as they regard our own good and that of our fellow-creatures. Indolence is the parent and nurse of vice; every day, every hour, brings with it its necessary employ; and a wise man will keep as it were his time-piece or diary, adapting particular pursuits to particular periods. I remember reading a striking instance of this œconomy of time in an account of the king of Prussia, one of the greatest monarchs that ever adorned a crown; who regularly divided the twenty-four hours, and allotted due and precise proportions to the purposes of study, society, relaxation and rest, duly attentive to the health of the body and the improvement of the mind. This great example I would recommend to you as highly rational and beneficial, as well as essential to your interest, present and future. Whatever is done, we should do with all our might; and particularly take care not to put that off till to-morrow which should be done to-day, for procrastination is sure to entail numberless evils, which by not preventing in time, become eventually unavoidable. Attend to this as the cordial advice of

Your's sincerely.

LETTER CXLIX.

In Answer to a Friend on the Subject of Prosperity.

Sir,

YOU request my opinion of prosperity as to its influence on the human mind and conduct, which I here present you with equal freedom and candour. I think

think it requires more equanimity to keep a due poise and medium of behaviour in prosperous than adverse circumstances. Riches and power of course are prevailing incentives to pride, luxury and dissipation, from which through the abundance of his possessions, the wisest man on earth is not exempt. Poverty must naturally put a check on the passions, by withholding the means which tend to raise and inflame them; and though there is no merit in refraining from that to which there is no propensity, nevertheless that consideration very considerably alleviates the wants to which it universally subjects. Upon the whole, prosperity is certainly more productive of vice and destructive to the cause of virtue than adversity; and it is the part of the wise and good man not to be too much elated by the one, or depressed by the other, but to bear a mind calm, composed, and serene, amidst all the various dispensations of Providence.

I remain, your's, &c.

L E T T E R CL.

To a young Person on Reserve when in Company.

Dear Sir,

THOUGH a turn for conversation, founded on useful and experimental knowledge, is highly serviceable and entertaining, yet it is a great evidence of good sense and understanding to know when to be silent, as well as when to speak. A well governed taciturnity is the first step of wisdom, the nurse of peace, and the guardian of virtue. A multiplicity of words serves but to ruffle and discompose the mind, as well as betray it into a thousand vanities. We ought cautiously to withhold our opinion on subjects with which we are not well acquainted, or that may be offensive to our company; in short, 'tis infinitely more commendable to say a little to the purpose, than a great deal that is vague, foreign, and impertinent.

I am your's sincerely.

L E T.

LETTER CLI.

On the Cultivation of the Mind.

Sir,

AS the human race is peculiarly distinguished from the brutal creation by those excellent faculties of reason and speech, it becomes of course their indisputable duty by every possible means to promote and advance their improvement. But alas! the far greater part of mankind, the rising generation especially, are more solicitous about adorning the body than cultivating the mind; and so vitiated in their notions of right and wrong, as to imagine that money and dress constitute the gentleman; whereas the numbers of blockheads in gay apparel which present themselves to daily observation, are standing proofs to the contrary. The due formation of the mind, or intellectual part, depends, in a great measure, on intent study, for which young persons in particular should set apart certain hours in the day: the morning is undoubtedly the most proper, because the body being refreshed by sleep, the mind is of course then free and disengaged, and more susceptible as well as retentive of ideas, than after it has been fatigued by attending to variety of objects during the whole day. Particular regard should be had to the choice of books, not the number; and it is better to read little at a time, and digest, than to run over volumes cursorily and superficially. Where there is time and ability, young gentlemen should aim at a perfection in learning as their highest honour and ornament, remembering these lines of Pope:

“ A little learning is a dangerous thing,
 “ Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring:
 “ There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
 “ And drinking largely sobers us again.”

I am, your friend and servant.

LET-

LETTER CLII.

Congratulating a Friend on his Recovery from a dangerous Illness.

Dear Sir,

THE news I yesterday received of your perfect recovery from the very dangerous disorder under which you so long laboured, affords me infinite pleasure and satisfaction. You will give me leave to join the general joy of all your friends and relations on the account, and send up my wishes to heaven for the preservation and continuance of your life, for the good of society, as well as those with whom you are particularly connected. I hear you are going into the country, by the advice of your physician, for the benefit of the air, and hope it will prove of most salutary effect. My nephew Charles desires me to express the pleasure with which he heard of your welfare, and as he has business that way, will pay you a visit in a few days at Hampstead.

I am, your's sincerely, &c.

LETTER CLIII.

On the same Occasion.

Dear Sir,

FROM the many obligations I owe you, and the respect I bear your person and character, you will permit me most sincerely to congratulate you, your good wife, family and friends, on the restoration and confirmation of your health, after so severe a trial of sickness, during the last six months. May Providence shower down blessings upon you and your's to latest posterity, prosper your undertakings for general good, and long preserve to society so valuable a member. You will accept of this token of respect, from one who has long proved your generous, cordial, and disinterested friendship, and wishes to embrace every opportunity during life, of convincing you with what profound regard and esteem he is, and ever will be,

Your friend, and devoted humble servant.

L E T-

LETTER CLIV.

In Answer to the preceding.

Dear Sir,

THE kind respect and concern you manifest for my welfare, in the very warm congratulations on my recovery you did me the favour to present, call for the most grateful acknowledgment, of which I must request your acceptance in behalf of myself and family. I shall esteem my return of health a singular blessing, if conducive in any degree to the interest and happiness of my friends, as I am ready on every occasion to exert myself in promoting the same, and of none more so than of you and your's. I am, with compliments to whom due,

Your obliged humble servant, &c.

LETTER CLV.

To a Friend, on the Neglect of the Education of his Children.

Dear Friend,

FROM the relation in which I stand to you and your family, and the great regard and esteem I bear them, you will pardon me, I hope, the liberty I take, in admonishing you concerning a point that I am persuaded is essential to their present and future interests. The education of children, respecting both their duty and learning, cannot be neglected by parents without the justest censure, as thereby they sustain an injury which in advanced life they can hardly ever recover. Children cannot be initiated too early in their duty, and those branches of learning which are adapted to their tender years, because they hence acquire a docility, and such tenets and habits, as ripen by experience, and are confirmed by maturer age, agreeably to Pope's idea,

“ Children like tender oziers take the bow,
“ And as they first are fashion'd always grow:
“ For what we see in youth, to that alone,
“ In age we are by second nature prone.”

If children are not put forward in early life, they will have the mortification of being placed behind those of the same age who have had that advantage. This will destroy that emulation which is the greatest incentive to diligence and attention, as well as incur the disgrace and contempt of being ridiculed by their school-fellows. Nor will the evil rest here; for as they advance in years, while their knowledge is so inadequate to their age, they will appear in a disadvantageous light to all with whom they have occasion to converse; so that as they will shun good company from shame, they will associate with the dregs of mankind from unavoidable necessity; the consequences of which must, on reflection, be shocking to an affectionate parent.

Besides, a youth without education can only be fit for mean, sordid, and servile employments, which entitle neither to honour nor respect; but on the contrary, subject to the coldest disdain, separate from agreeable and instructive society, and thereby defeat the very end of existence. Your own understanding must suggest the blame you will incur from so palpable a remissness in this incumbent duty, not only from the world in general and friends in particular, but your own children, who, sensible that it was in your power to have given them the same advantages in common with others, will consider themselves exempt from those obligations by which others are bound to their parents, and behave to you with a most disgusting coolness, if not a total indifference. These and many other consequences too shocking to enumerate, will inevitably accrue to you and to them, unless you attend to my friendly expostulation, and endeavour to retrieve lost time by using all necessary and probable means of supplying the defects consequent on such long neglect and failure, in an instance of all others the most important.

I am, your faithful friend, &c.

L. E. T.

LETTER CLVI.

To a Friend on Neglect of answering Letters.

Dear Sir,

A Considerable time having elapsed since I had the pleasure of hearing from you, disagreeable doubts arise in my mind as to the continuance of your health. I should therefore deem it a singular favour, if by return of post you would satisfy me in that important particular; for as I have written no less than four letters without receiving one answer, I am fearful lest in any instance I may have given offence, though wholly unconscious of such design. Your compliance with this request will greatly oblige

Your affectionate friend and servant, &c.

LETTER CLVII.

The Answer.

My dear Friend,

I Blush to acknowledge the receipt of your four kind letters without returning an answer, for I cannot offer a plea of excuse satisfactory to myself. As you never gave me cause of offence in any single instance, I must confess my neglect, submit myself to your candour, and promise the strictest attention to your epistolary favours in future. May I then be assured of your forgiveness, and the great pleasure of your future correspondence, when I declare there is not a man on earth whose friendship is preferred to your's, by

Dear Sir,

Your obliged humble servant, &c.

LET

LETTER CLVIII.

Expostulation on a young Man's irreverent Behaviour to his Father.

SIR,

THE freedom I take in this letter arises, I assure you, from justifiable motives, and therefore hope it will be taken in good part and produce a similar effect. From the liberal education you have received, you must be sensible, that filial duty is most strictly enjoined both by the laws of God and nature; and yet I have been concerned, to observe you sometimes delinquent in that great branch of natural and revealed religion. I do not mean to charge you with any atrocious behaviour to your father, but only to reason with you on the propriety of what I deem unbecoming retorts on any little peevish expressions that may drop from him through petulancy or the infirmities of age. These instances of human frailty, especially in advanced years, it behoves you, as a man in the full enjoyment of all your faculties, to put up with even from a stranger; much less then does it become you to be fiery and impetuous, because your father may be positive and petulant, forgetful that you are to bear with him, not he with you. I know he is hurt greatly by the least appearance of slight, negligence or inattention; and expects, with the highest reason, to be treated by you upon every occasion now, as he has shewn you indulgence heretofore. Duty and gratitude both enjoin submission to the will of our parents, and filial piety has ever been ranked amongst the first virtues that can adorn a character. Summon therefore reason to your aid, review your conduct calmly and impartially; and as I know you possess good sense, I also know the moment you are conscious of a moral defect, you will correct and amend it. Your father is wholly ignorant of my addressing you on this occasion; and as I hope you will impute it to a good intention, and a sincere friendship and esteem for your family, I entertain not a doubt of its being received with candour. I am, dear Sir, very sincerely,
Your's to command.

G

LET

LETTER CLIX.

Against indulging an inordinate Passion for Music and Singing.

Dear Cousin,

THE greatest philosophers and moralists, in laying down rules for the human conduct, have, in all our pursuits, prescribed MODERATION; for this obvious reason, because if we suffer one object to engross our time and attention, we must neglect others of equal, if not superior, importance in the œconomy of life. This preface may serve to introduce a word or two of caution I wish to offer you on that head.

When last at our country seat, we were greatly entertained with the proofs you gave us of your musical skill and vocal powers; but as these acquirements (though they are pleasing) may gain too great an ascendancy over the mind, and impede its progress in other accomplishments, by too constant pursuits, they may be rendered pernicious from divers consequences. An inordinate attachment to the pleasures of sound, will damp those of sense, (as in the instance of the Italian opera;) and that delight which should be conveyed to the understanding will stop at the ear, and cannot therefore be called rational, though it may be deemed entertaining. This propensity also exposes us to company not always the most eligible, and thereby leads us to the neglect of business, and the impairing of health. It may likewise tend to enervate the mind, and dispose us to the neglect of those exercises which are more manly, instructive, and beneficial. I have briefly given you my opinion on this matter, and submit the inference to your own good sense; and as I would by no means wish to lay a restraint on your inclinations, but only recommend a moderate bound of pursuit, presume you will pardon the liberty I have taken, and believe me to be what I ever wish,

Your sincere friend, and humble servant.

L E T.

LETTER CLX.

Reprehending the Folly of too great a Prepossession in favour of our nearest Relatives.

Friend John,

I Respect your character, and have a good opinion of your understanding in general, but cannot avoid warning you of an indiscretion that frequently subjects you to ridicule. It is remarked amongst all your acquaintance by whom you are visited, or whom you visit, that whatever may be the topic of conversation, you are sure to introduce, and that often impertinently, an eulogium on your spouse and children. Mrs. Nonsuch may be the mirror of beauty and chastity; Tommy may be the finest boy of his age, and Nancy the paragon of her sex: these considerations doubtless impress you sensibly; but your friends, though candid, regard them not in that exaggerated light; and are disgusted, not pleased, by your incessantly dinning their ears with their perfections. Besides, in exalting the merit of your's, you appear to detract from that of others; and tacitly reflect on the whole company. Let us then keep our opinions in these matters to ourselves, submit their qualities to the judgment of the world, and thereby escape both their ridicule and censure.

I am sincerely your's.

LETTER CLXI.

Against the Affectation of masculine Airs, too frequent in the Female Sex.

Dear Patty,

THE great improvements both in mind and person you have lately discovered, afford me a very sensible pleasure, as a happy presage, that in due time you will become a perfect pattern of your late excellent mother. Yet amidst your many commendable qualities, I cannot help observing an attachment to a prevalent, though unbecoming affectation of the airs and

manners of the other sex; which, in my opinion, detract greatly from the charms of the fair. You cannot conceive to what disadvantage you appear in your new riding dress, which being conformable to the most extravagant mode, disguises you so, that it is difficult to ascertain your sex; for you look neither like girl nor boy, woman nor man: in short, you are metamorphosed from an elegant, graceful, enchanting figure, into a compound of incoherence, disproportion, or if I may be permitted the expression, a being resembling the general idea of an hermaphrodite. As intrepidity, boldness, and freedom become the one sex, so do modesty, delicacy, and reserve the other; and to a man of refined feelings, a masculine woman must be obnoxious. I would not wish to recommend an awkward bashfulness, but I am persuaded that nothing is a greater prepossession in a lady's favour, than the charms of modesty both in behaviour and appearance, without which all other perfections would lose their lustre. Receive these hints as they are intended, from

Your affectionate Uncle, &c.

L E T T E R CLXII.

To a Friend, on the Happiness of rural Retirement.

Dear Friend,

VARIOUS are the ideas maintained of happiness, and various the objects in which by us mortals it is centered. That which delights us in the early part of life, in an advanced period may disgust; for it is indisputably true, that our inclinations change with our years. I am led to these remarks by my own experience, well remembering the time, when I was attached to those scenes of noise and variety which are to be found in the metropolis alone; whereas nothing now so truly charms me, as to contemplate on the various objects that surround me in this blessed retreat, while I look upon past pleasures with the highest distaste. My situation is both conducive to health of body and improvement of time; free from the embarrassment of worldly

worldly care, and the noise and hurry of worldly business, I have leisure to survey the wonders of nature, and, according to the poetical phrase,

“ To look thro’ nature up to nature’s God.”

Nor am I wanting in point of social converse, in which I place an essential part of human happiness; while the beloved partner of my earliest manhood, sits by my side under the spreading elm, which overhangs the meandering stream, and we are accompanied by our reverend neighbour, who beautifully comments on the different objects which present themselves to our view. Thus pass the hours of your friend, who wishes every man to rival him in heart-felt satisfaction; not that I affect the stoic, or pretend to be devoid of passions; all the philosophy I would claim is, to cherish none but those I may gratify with innocence, and banish the rest as the spoilers of my peace. I should rejoice in making you a convert to my opinion, because I find it founded on the solid basis of truth and virtue; you would then be reconciled to these un aspiring sentiments, and reduce your towering hopes to the humble level of genuine happiness. Let me have the pleasure of seeing you here, for none can be sensible of the delights I have described, unless they participate.

I am your’s, &c.

L E T T E R CLXIII.

From a female Friend to another, on growing old.

My dear Sophy,

IT has been very justly remarked, that the human understanding is as liable to be unhinged and deprived of the powers of exercising its peculiar functions, as the human body; because the former is as liable to passions, as the latter is to diseases. And it is equally certain, that those passions are as capable of suspending the power of reason in the one, as diseases are of obstructing those of action in the other. These reflections were brought to my mind by an event rather

ther singular, though the effect it produced was neither unnatural nor uncommon. Not having admitted as yet the least idea of growing into years, as I lifted up the sash the other day, a fellow came running up to me, and asked if I wanted a good pair of spectacles. I cannot determine which was greatest upon the occasion, my shock or my surprize; when immediately repulsing the man, I flew to the glass, to see if I could discern any ground for his enquiry; forgetting, from the loss of my reason for that interval, that his trade was to cry spectacles; and that many younger persons than myself, from natural or casual defects, were obliged to make use of them. After viewing myself some time with an inquisitive stare, I thought I perceived some things like wrinkles at the corners of my eyes; and recollecting that I approached my thirty-fifth year, I fell, as it were, into a swoon, nor could I recover myself for a considerable time. Where then was my reason? doubtless suspended, or I could not have forgotten that age must advance with our years or have been shocked at an effect produced by a cause so natural and universal.

This, with other instances that might be adduced, plainly shews the imbecillity of human understanding; and that it is little better than as described by Congreve;

- “ Reason, the pow’r to guess at right and wrong !
- “ The twinkling lamp
- “ Of wand’ring life, that winks and wakes by turns,
- “ Fooling the follower betwixt shade and shining.”

Of all the bug-bears that present themselves to the fancy, nothing terrifies so much as the apprehension of growing old, though we know it is the necessary and unavoidable consequence of life itself. But as I may appear to grow too serious, I shall dismiss the subject, with sincerely desiring that you and I may grow old in friendship, and retain the beauties of the mind when those of the body must naturally decay.

I am, dear Sophy, your real Friend, &c.

• L E T.

LETTER CLXIV.

To a Lady, whose Charms were impaired by the Ravages of an epidemical Disease.

My dear Louisa,

THE news of your recovery renders me inexpressibly happy, and I sincerely congratulate you upon the occasion; you must dispense with my condolence on the loss you sustained by your illness, as I cannot think it an object of such momentous concern. The more you appear deficient in personal charms, the more you will be induced to cultivate the beauties of the mind; and the more negligent you are of those ornaments which are subject to daily impair, the more assiduous will you be in improving those graces that are durable and permanent. A complexion of the finest enamel, without virtue, good sense, and sweetness of disposition, in time must and will become disgusting;

“Beauty soon grows familiar to the lover,
“Fades in his eye, and palls upon his sense.”

Think not, my dear, I desire to taunt you on account of the alteration produced by your disease; I wish to console you, and point out the means by which you will appear more lovely in the eyes of the truly meritorious and discerning, than you possibly could do from the union of all those perfections which were once your boast and glory. That you may daily improve in every mental accomplishment, is the earnest desire of

Your's sincerely,

SOPHRONIA.

LETTER CLXV.

To an intimate Friend, on a Matter of Secrecy.

Dear Sir,

RElying in the mutual friendship that has long continued between us, I am induced to communicate to you a circumstance, and request of you a fa-

your, which I desire may be kept inviolably secret. Since the death of my uncle, I have discovered that there is a child, for whom I think in justice I ought to provide out of his estate. The mother is absconded, and the boy, my uncle's son, will be deprived of board and lodging, unless the arrears are immediately discharged. As affairs are not yet settled, and I would not wish to disclose the matter to my father at present, I entreat the favour of your taking him under your protection, till I can place it in a true light to those most nearly concerned. When you let me know your determination, I will acquaint you with particulars; and if I live I will reimburse you, if not, the consciousness of a benevolent action will, to a generous mind, be an adequate reward. Forgive this freedom, and be assured I am, with great sincerity,

Your obliged friend, and most humble servant, &c.

L E T T E R CLXVI.

In Answer to the preceding.

My good Friend,

I AM much pleased with the very signal instance of the justice and generosity of your disposition, as displayed in the contents of your last letter. As I never act in affairs of any importance without previously acquainting my spouse, I communicated the affair to her, who applauded the design, and gave her hearty concurrence. Let me know where the lad is, and I will immediately discharge his board, and make him one of my family, till you may deem it expedient to remove him. I am, with due esteem,

Your friend and servant, &c.

L E T-

L E T T E R CLXVII.

On the Merit of conferring a Benefit.

S I R,

AS, according to the established maxim, *it is better to give than to receive*, so the virtue of generosity may be more eminently displayed in conferring a benefit, than that of gratitude can be in receiving it. To sooth the ills, and alleviate the misfortunes of our fellow-creatures, is the noblest privilege of an extensive fortune; but to exercise that privilege with a refined delicacy, is the sole province of an elevated mind. Where there is nice discernment, it will distinguish one object from another; sensible, that though in the common dispensations of bounty, very little or no address is required; much should be exerted towards objects of superior understanding, who will very justly estimate the merit of the obligation by the manner in which it is conferred. When charity is administered, either with an air of insult or of pity, it, in a great measure, defeats its design; but when it anticipates application and expectation, and solicits the acceptance of the proffered favour, then it acts up to its native dignity, and according to the most exalted idea of its property and title. What I long entertained of this God-like virtue in theory, you have exemplified in your liberality towards me; in return for which I can only subscribe myself, dear Sir,

Your obliged humble servant.

L E T T E R CLXVIII.

Assurance of Sincerity and Affection in Friendship.

Dear Sir,

AS it is the property of envy and malice to foment jealousies, and excite animosities, between professed friends in particular, I was not in the least affected by the intimation of certain disingenuous characters, that I had forfeited your very estimable favour

and regard. I am rendered peculiarly happy, that as it frequently happens, good has arisen from apparent evil; since their malevolent report occasioned the kind letter with which you favoured me in absolute contradiction, as well as assurance of the continuance of your good opinion. This circumstance affords me the greatest joy; and it is, and ever shall be, my highest ambition to deserve that confidence with which I have been honoured during a series of years, and to preserve which shall be the business and study of my future life. I am, with due respect,

Your's, &c.

L E T T E R CLXIX.

Keeping a Secret essential to real Friendship.

S I R,

AMONGST the many particular instances which constitute genuine friendship, the evidence of sincerity in an inviolable observance of secrecy, when enjoined or mutually promised, is one of the most interesting and important. Those who maintain false ideas of friendship, or enter into it from sinister views, wish to manifest their alliance to persons of superior rank or fortune, by divulging the most important secret, as proof of their being thought worthy the confidence of characters of eminence; by which means the matter is handed from one to another, till at length it is known to the whole world.

The talent of secrecy is of the highest moment to society, nor can commerce between individuals be carried on without it; yet experience continually furnishes us with instances of confidants who cannot be relied on, and meer nominal friends, who are not to be trusted. This being the case, it may not be improper to trace the character through its different degrees, and the divers modes in which secrets are divulged. There are those, who having some sense of duty, hesitate at the breach of it, and think it fulfilled by not uttering a word; when, at the same time, they proclaim it as effectually

effectually by a nod, a shrug, or a leer. Others are so communicative in their disposition, that to trust them with a secret is to enjoin them the hardest task in nature; they may be said to labour, till no longer able to bear the burthen, they consign it to some confidential friend, and thereby relieve themselves from a load of oppression. There are those who from carelessness and inattention will immediately transgress, and when charged with the breach, only plead ignorance, and assure you they never knew the matter committed to them in confidence, was any secret at all. Open and unreserved characters think themselves culpable in concealing any thing from their intimates; so that to acquaint them with any circumstance, is in effect to publish the same to the world. To remedy these evils, know your man before you make him your friend; and if he is worthy of being your friend, he is worthy of your confidence: and, again, to conclude, be assured, that the man who cannot keep his own counsel, will never keep that of another.

I am your's sincerely, &c.

L E T T E R CLXX.

From a young Lady in the Country to her Friend in Town.

Dear Caroline,

I Retain the same friendly esteem and affection for you as ever, though I neglected answering your last kind letter a considerable time. All I can say in apology is, that there rarely happens here an occurrence worthy of your notice, where news is as scarce as company, and one dull perpetual round both of conversation and amusement fills up the tedious hours as they pass. Variety, dear variety, the very life of airy dispositions, is not so much as heard of here, where our prospect is bounded by two or three spires of old churches, and the glimpse of a remote gentleman's seat. I am absolutely fatigued to death with having nothing to do, and continually fancy myself buried, as it were, from society, for not a human be-

ing of either sex is to be seen here, but the mistress and servants of the family; and yet Mrs. Cox is for ever dinning my ears, with a prolix formal dissertation on the pleasures and varieties of rural retirement, as she calls it; but for my part I can term it nothing but a gloomy exile. These groves, lawns, and streams, may amuse you, Madam, said I, (interrupting her in the dull lecture) but let me enjoy the rapturous delights of society, and pass my life in towns and cities amidst populous assemblies, where there are objects to employ my thoughts, and fix my attention. Before I had any experience of these rural diversions, as they are called, I heard them described as highly rational and entertaining; but I confess I have not discernment enough to find out why good sense and genius may not be as fitly occupied and improved amidst the resort of the world, as in a dreary desert, where there is not the least change of subject or prospect to relieve either the mind or the eye, which are eternally poring over the same dull nauseous objects. If you pity my forlorn situation, send me some news, and speedily, or I shall certainly die of the vapours. I am, dear Caroline,

Your's sincerely, &c.

L E T T E R CLXXI.

In Answer to the foregoing.

Dear Charlotte,

I Sincerely pity and sympathize with you in your dreary situation, and wish I could administer you the least comfort or relief. The world goes on here in the same perpetual round as ever; politics and fashions engross the conversation, as they have done time immemorial; but I don't find that we are grown either wiser or better, though I believe people are as honest now as they were a century ago, notwithstanding our grave sages are constantly exclaiming, *Oh! the wickedness of the age in which we live!* But I would not add to the gloom of your solitude, by dwelling on a
doleful

doleful ditty, or introducing the subject of dull morality. To shift the scene then, I acquaint you that last Friday I made one of a party to Ranelagh, traversed the rotunda, had the satisfaction of admiring and being admired, and returned home with my head full of music, and my heart full of love; for who should be in an adjoining box but Mr. —; but as old Squaretoes was in company with him, we could only exchange a few languishing glances. I hope your papa will soon recall you from exile, for I hear your captain's regiment is ordered abroad; indeed, I always thought it a misfortune that you had fixed your affections on him, for I must own I am of Gay's opinion, that captains ladies in general have as little of their company as their pay. The next time I write, I will endeavour to collect some news worthy your notice.

I am your's sincerely, &c.

L E T T E R CLXXII.

On the wonderful Effects of a sudden Elevation.

My dear Friend,

I Know you will congratulate me heartily, when you hear that after such a succession of adverse events as have embittered my life for these five and twenty years past, fortune has at length compassionated my forlorn condition, and turned me up a trump in the figure of one of the twenty thousand pounders in the state lottery. All the philosophy I could possibly muster, was hardly able to keep my mind upon the poise, under so unexpected and amazing a change of condition; however, I am now pretty well come to myself, and capable of making such reflections as serve to confirm the opinion I have ever maintained of men and things in general. As I am averse to be stared at as a phenomenon, and despise those officious assiduities which arise from selfish motives, I disclosed my success to my old friend Tom Trueman alone; but Tom, who would burst if he had not vent for a secret, soon published it throughout the circle of my acquaintance. In some instances

instances my sudden elevation proved one of my greatest embarrassments; I was so pestered with adulatory congratulations, and fawning applications, that to rid myself of those vermin I despise in every situation of life, I retired for a few days into the country. But when the time of payment arrived, I was under a necessity of returning to town, in order to settle my affairs, and purchase bank stock; and then I was teased with visits, messages, and cards of compliment from morning to night. I was surprized the other day by a visit from my cousin Sam Squander, of the Temple, who has not deigned me the time of the day these three years; he gave me a polite invitation to his chambers, but I waved the compliment by assuring him I would never interrupt him in his studies. My servant came up one morning as I was at breakfast, and informed me that there was a gentleman below desirous of seeing me, whose name was Rant. He was admitted, and proved to be Mr. Rant, a public performer, and quondam intimate; but since his elevation had observed the distance of the hat and bow, which I always construe as a hint to keep off; so that I dismissed the hero, with telling him I was determined to know those only to whom I had been known before. He told me he came to present me a box order, but I ordered my man to shew him down stairs. To add to your wonder, Laury Lance, the surgeon, a distant acquaintance in Dublin, called on me one morning, with the offer of an airing in his chariot. I returned Mr. Lance thanks for his politeness, but told him as I kept I galloway, and preferred riding on horseback, I would not trouble him. I have received as many presents in chines, turkies, brawn, chickens, hares, and wild fowl, as would feast a country town at Christmas: these I presented to my landlord and lady, a worthy couple of respectable characters, except one collar of brawn, which I received as a token of gratitude to a gentleman who had kindly employed me from a principle of humanity, at a time of the most pungent distress. If I go to the houses I used to frequent, I am hoarse with repeating "thank you, Sir," to their incessantly drinking my health; so that for
quiet's

quiet's sake, I am obliged to retire to places where I am unknown. These and a thousand other instances of a similar nature harass me perpetually; I scarce know myself, nor any man else; but as I have always had an opinion of both your head and your heart, I hope, when next I see you, I shall know you then and ever.

I am, sincerely, your's to command.

L E T T E R CLXXIII.

To a Friend, on the Difficulties and Dilemmas of Law Suits.

Dear Sir,

FROM the regard I have for your person and character, I am concerned to hear of any occurrences which seem to oppose your interest and welfare, and very sorry to find you are likely to be involved in a law-suit with your neighbour, Mr. Downright. "Think before you leap," is a vulgar, but excellent maxim, and very applicable as a caution to persons disposed to go to law, which has been compared, and justly, to a mouse-trap, "very easy to get into, but very difficult to get out of."

The consequence of going to law is admirably caricatured in a print daily exposed in our shops, representing the state and condition of the parties, successful and unsuccessful, at the close of the suit, when the decree or verdict is finally given. The one laments, the other exults; that is the only difference. They are equally destitute; the bone of contention being carried off by the rapacious claws of those merciless fiends, who live on the prey of mankind. I could wish, before it is too late, you would consent to submit the point in dispute to arbitration, as I am persuaded you will save much time, trouble, and expence, and at all events, be a gainer by the compromise. It would tire your patience to run through the forms, quirks, and intricacies through which the cause must pass, if litigated according to the usual mode of process; and I can venture to affirm,

affirm, that through delay, and other unavoidable incidents, if you were to obtain a verdict, you will sit down a loser: therefore let me intreat you to think maturely before you resolve on a conduct that I think must terminate to your disadvantage.

I am, with concern for your interest,

Your's, &c.

L E T T E R CLXXIV.

To a Friend confined for Debt.

Dear Sir,

AS from our connexions during a course of years, I have had undoubted proofs of your probity and integrity in all your dealings, I am extremely sorry to hear that a remorseless, inexorable creditor has laid you under confinement. It is universally known that your failure arose not from any defect in yourself, either in point of industry or œconomy; but from a variety of losses and disappointments, through the general calamity of the times. Conscious rectitude will support you under all the troubles of this uncertain, fluctuating scene of existence; and you will learn this important lesson in the school of affliction, “to trust in nothing human.” A merciless fellow-creature may imprison the body, but cannot shackle the mind; let that idea console and transport you beyond the power of mortals. You are now sensible that your miseries cannot lay you lower; and as you know the worst, let me conjure you to hope for the best. Your creditor’s heart may relent, or some unforeseen incident may occasion your release. You see around you many unhappy objects in the same situation with yourself; endeavour to set them an example of manly resignation to that fate which cannot be avoided. Receive the enclosed trifle as a token of friendship; would it were in my power to testify it more effectually. When I have a vacant hour or two from business, which at present engrosses my time, I will pay you a visit; but in the interim, you may command the best services from

Your's, &c.

L E T-

LETTER CLXXV.

Answer to the foregoing.

Dear Sir,

YOU have given the surest evidence of the sincerity of your friendship, in the consolation and assistance you kindly afforded me by means of your last favour. It greatly alleviates my misfortunes to find, that amongst a numerous acquaintance, I have one real friend, tried and approved, whom, according to the phrase of Shakespeare, "I will grapple to my heart." I cannot recal past events; though, no doubt, could I recal the days that are fled, I should avoid some failings that might tend to bring on my troubles; however, it is some comfort to reflect, as you candidly observe, that my failure did not arise from my want of industry or œconomy, but from causes which I could neither foresee nor prevent. The greatest source of my affliction is the consideration of my poor wife and helpless babes, at the sight of whom the most obdurate heart might relent. I never could do so much for them as I wished and desired, and now I am cruelly deprived of the power of doing any thing for them at all. I thank you for your proffered services, and shall be unspeakably happy to see you, whenever you can be spared from the weightier concerns of your business, which claims your principal attention. I must own, I care not how seldom I see my wife or children in this mansion of grief and sorrow; the sight of one another only brings disagreeable reflections to our minds, and presents to our thoughts the remembrance of happier days that are past and gone.

You are the only friend to whom I can open my mind freely, and commit with confidence my most important affairs; let me then have the pleasure and satisfaction of seeing you as soon as convenient, and you will highly oblige

Your grateful, though distressed,
humble servant, &c.

L E T

LETTER CLXXVI.

On Breach of Promise in Repayment.

S I R,

NOTHING can be more irksome to me than the necessity of upbraiding you with breach of promise in not repaying the fifty pounds, after your solemnly declaring both your will and ability to fulfil that, which I enjoined you by all the sacred ties of friendship. I represented to you the difficulty to which I put myself to oblige you, and the inconvenience and probable disgrace that would attend a failure in the precise time of payment. It has ever been my study and endeavour to conduct my affairs with such œconomy as to obviate the trouble of applying to my friends for assistance, though I have never been backward in affording it to them upon any urgent occasion. If you refer to the date of my letter, you will find six months have elapsed, without your intimating the least concern; and six more would probably have elapsed in the same manner, had not I been compelled to remind you. Three weeks are expired since your first promise, and you still continue to prevaricate and put me off. I appeal to your own breast as to the honour, the justice, the friendship of this behaviour. Must I sustain the loss of my own credit for being so ready to support your's? You must permit me to declare, that by your behaviour in this instance, I shall estimate the truth of your repeated profession; suffer me not then to reproach you with ingratitude, and myself with folly; but preserve the regard I have long entertained for you.

I am, your's, &c.

LETTER CLXXVII.

To a Person, who on a short Acquaintance wants to borrow Money.

S I R,

I Must take the liberty of expressing my surprise and resentment at an instance of your conduct, that argues a total want of modesty as well as decency. You have

have enquired for me several times in my absence from town, and the purport of your business I understand is to borrow a considerable sum of money. You must certainly entertain a very mean opinion of my understanding, to imagine I would risk my property in the hands of so recent an acquaintance. I was never more than twice in your company, which I confess amused me; and you, on the other hand, appeared to be pleased with my conversation. To any approved friend I am ready and willing to render a service; but there is reason in every thing, and it behoves every man to consult his own security. Prudence is as requisite in conferring, as discretion is in soliciting a benefit; and common sense must suggest to you, that our intimacy is by no means of a date sufficient to enter in the relation of friends. If I was to attend to the request of every new or casual acquaintance, the consequence would be a total inability of serving my old friends, and even my very self. From your appearance and pretended connexions, I should imagine it no matter of difficulty to obtain the sum you require; and I cannot do you the injustice to suppose but you have some old acquaintance that will be ready to oblige you, and I am persuaded, from experience, you are not too bashful to apply. However, you will permit me freely to declare, that for divers reasons and causes which I decline to enumerate, I must refuse compliance with your request.

Your's, &c.

L E T T E R CLXXVIII.

From a Friend to a Gentleman of Fortune, with a Family, dissuading him from a Match, where there is a Disparity of Years.

Dear Sir,

AS you have done me the honour of requesting my opinion of the probable consequences of marriage with the young lady you seem to propose as your second wife, I shall take the liberty of being very explicit

plicit on that head. In my humble judgment, there are two considerations which plead strongly against the union of youth with maturer years. These are nature and prudence; the first dictates, that Providence designed the youthful portion of a man's life for mutual endearments and the propagation of his family; the latter enjoins immaturer age, an attention to education, counsel and advice. Besides, where there is a disparity of years, there must in some degree be a disparity of disposition and inclination. Your years must of course render you grave and serious, and not disposed for those amusements which are adapted to the juvenile state of the lady. If you cannot consistently join in gay pleasures to which you have been long unaccustomed, you will incur the imputation of rigour, in depriving the lady of the same, at a time of life when she has a right and title to expect and require them. The children you have by your late excellent lady, whose memory I revere, appears to me a very powerful plea against the marriage. Your eldest daughter has almost attained to the years of the lady you seem to intend for her mother; consider then, Sir, in what view the world, your children and domestics will behold so unequal an alliance. Your fortune, it is admitted, may be sufficient to provide for all your children, and yet be an object of interest, so far as to render a young lady outwardly courteous and obliging; but there will be great reason to suspect that her behaviour is the effect of counterfeit, not real affection: nor can it be probable that so young a lady can love you like her who grew on in life, and passed together with you from youth to maturity. You had both but one and the same view, the nurture and education of the common offspring of your mutual affections. If the present lady can render you as happy, she must be a nonpareil, a contradiction to universal experience; if she cannot, the reverse must produce the direct contrary effect. Indeed, I think nature, justice, decency, and reason itself unite to dissuade from such an alliance. Thus, as you desired, I have communicated my opinion with freedom and candour. The hints I have thrown out were dictated by a zealous concern for your honour and welfare; I submit them to
your

your own sense and experience, which, duly exercised, I am persuaded are sufficient to guide you in all matters relative to your conduct in life.

I am, Sir,

Your faithful and affectionate

Friend and Servant, &c.

L E T T E R CLXXIX.

To a Young Widow, inclined to marry a Gentleman of Merit and Fortune inferior to her former Husband.

Dear Madam,

WHEN I waited on you to condole you on the loss of your late excellent spouse, you discovered such apparent proofs of grief for his departure, that I was surprised and astonished to hear you so soon admitted the addresses of a second suitor. There is an old maxim, which I think fully proved by experience, “that maids often improve their fortunes by marriage, but widows rarely.” With respect to this maxim, if what I learn be true, it will be amply verified in your case. In your maiden state you was with difficulty won by your late amiable, accomplished husband, with a fortune superior to your own: but now, within a few months after his decease, when blest with an affluence left by his generosity and affection, you listen to the addresses of a man, less accomplished as to knowledge, less amiable in his person, less polite in his conversation; in short, in every point of merit and fortune. In what manner can this be reconciled? If a young widow indeed derives advantages herself, and injures not her children (if she has any) by her second adventure, she stands justified to herself and the world. But this is so rarely the case, even with women of approved modesty and discretion, that I have often been at a loss to account for the motives of their conduct; especially when many appear neither to have done honour to the memory of their late husbands, to their family, themselves, nor even regarded common decency. I would by no means direct these remarks, to you personally; yet

yet I hope you are not less polite for having been the wife of one of the most accomplished men in the kingdom; and that you cannot so easily dispense with those forms as a widow, from your present suitor, which as a maid you maintained so obstinately when addressed as a lover by your late husband. It cannot, must not be: pray, my dear friend, my old companion in the maiden, as well as connubial state, reflect on this matter, and thereby maintain your reputation, your character, your happiness, and, in a word, the security of all that is near and dear to you, and you will for ever oblige

Your affectionate, faithful Friend and Servant, &c.

L E T T E R CLXXX.

From a young Person near the Expiration of his Apprenticeship, to a Friend, requesting his Assistance towards putting him in Business.

Dear Sir,

THE friendship which long subsisted between you and my father, and the many instances of your favour, from my earliest years, call for the sincerest acknowledgment of duty and gratitude. You was my sponser at my baptism, and since the decease of my parents, have been to me indeed a father, fulfilling the covenant in every instance, by an attention to my interest present and future. I hope I have conducted myself in such manner as to merit your esteem and countenance, which it shall be my highest ambition, and the study of my life ever to preserve. From these considerations, I am emboldened to lay before you a particular circumstance, and submit the same to your pleasure and approbation; requesting your indulgent forgiveness, if what I mention should appear improper. You will permit me then to acquaint you, Sir, that I have now an opportunity of becoming master in a very advantageous branch of business: this great point you know cannot be carried without money; and you are the only person in the world to whom I can apply

ply for the favour of assistance. I have made an exact computation of the sum that will be necessary, and I think I can take upon me to say, that an hundred pounds, prudently managed, will furnish all the materials, and make as good a shew as I could wish or desire. I hope and trust, from my knowledge of, and assiduous attention to, business, I shall soon be able to repay the sum required; at least, I am certain that I can always retain the value of it in stock, which will ever be a security to you. This, Sir, is the true state of the case; if you approve of it, and will please to add this instance of your goodness to the former, you will confer a lasting obligation on, dear Sir,

Your much obliged, and most obedient,
humble Servant.

L E T T E R CLXXXI.

The Answer.

Dear Harry,

I Received your's, will take the first opportunity of enquiring into the particulars, and if I find matters are as you represent, will, with the greatest pleasure, comply with your request. I believe you are a good boy; and so long as you give me no room to change my opinion, you shall never want a friend in

Your's sincerely, &c.

L E T T E R CLXXXII.

From a Baronet in Town, to his Friend in the Country.

Dear Sir,

I Promised to send you the papers regularly, as a principal part of your amusement in your rural recesses; but must own I have sometimes been remiss, through that indolence and negligence which too generally prevails in this great world. We are immersed in politics
here;

here; never did party run higher than at present. I don't know in what manner to account for it; but I am so dull and so stupid a fellow, that I was one of sixty-five fools, who obstinately persevered, and could not be convinced by an hundred wise men, that patriotism is an error no man ought to persist in after he arrives at years of discretion. But I am given to understand, that I shall pay for my folly. Sir Harry Handy, a court agent, tells me, that the bauble which was held out as a bait to bring me to reason, and due obedience to my betters, would certainly be given to Sir Peter Pliant, for having declared his readiness to do any work, or all work, as a requital for so great an honour. When I go into Somersetshire, I must remind you of the promise you made to pay me a visit there. I hope your spouse is in good health; my little family have been much indisposed, but, thank God, are perfectly recovered. I long to return to my own pleasing mansion, which is rendered more agreeable by your kind, instructive, and entertaining company and conversation. But I must obey my country's call, and the mandate of my constituents, to whom I hold myself bound by every tie of honour, truth and justice, preferring the heart-felt applause of conscious rectitude, to all sublunary enjoyments or gratifications.

I am, dear Sir,

Your's, with great respect.

L E T T E R CLXXXIII.

From a Gentleman of literary Talents, to a Friend, who had committed the Education of a noble Youth to his Care.

Dear Sir,

AS I know the esteem and regard you have for the youth whose education you have committed to my care, I am persuaded you will derive the most satisfactory pleasure to hear that he is worthy of you,
worthy

worthy of his late venerable father, and worthy his honourable ancestors, who, in a long illustrious line of succession, have ever been the patrons of genius and virtue. His ingenuity is admirable, his œconomy exemplary, and his docility extraordinary. He has made a remarkable progress in his studies, which he declares, in a great measure, arises from his regard for me, as he is as zealous for my credit as for his own honour. If I write an essay or a poem for publication, he not only reads, but studies, gets it by heart, and then requests me to hear him recite it. These excellent dispositions are certain omens of perpetual and increasing improvement, since his mind is not fixed on those objects which are transient and visionary, but on such as are permanent and substantial. Nor indeed could less be expected, from one who in early life had the benefit of your laudable example, and was reared in a family eminent for the practice and cultivation of every virtue. Accept then my unfeigned thanks for the honour you conferred on me, in entrusting me with the formation of a mind endowed with such excellent qualities; and rest assured, that no pains shall be wanting in my power to improve the same, in every noble, sublime, and virtuous accomplishment. I remain, dear Sir,

Your much obliged humble servant, &c.

L E T T E R CLXXXIV.

From a sentimental Friend, on the Subjects of Friendship, Age, and Death.

Dear Sir,

NOTHING can tend more to console us on the loss of an intimate and chosen friend, than the reflection that those very virtues which were the basis of an esteem, will also be the basis of his future happiness. This consideration presented itself to my mind, upon closing the eyes of my late deceased friend, the last and most melancholy office I had to perform. At an advanced period of life, it must be an

H

unspeakable

unspeakable satisfaction to be able to look back, without horror and remorse, on our past moments. I can well recollect, my friend, the time in which we formed a friendship mutual and permanent, founded on a parity of principle, sentiment, and inclination. Time has proved the validity, and time must put a period to the same. To desire that life may be protracted to an unusual length, argues a fear of death; but I trust that we have so spent our days, that we have no reason to tremble at the thought of our last, nor render the remainder of life miserable, by a dreadful apprehension of the inevitable hour to come. We have, I hope, realized death, as it were, by dying daily to this world; and anticipated the joys of a future state, by placing our affections on celestial objects. Why then should we tremble to depart? Why regret to leave a world, for the pleasures of which we have no relish, and the enjoyments of which we have found vain and unsatisfactory? The ties of nature will, notwithstanding those exalted ideas, incline us to wish a continuance in this state of pilgrimage, for the sake of those who are near and dear to us; but we should cheerfully resign them to the care of that Providence, who preserved us to them in their tender years, to be their guide through the budding, to the full bloom of reason. If any consideration could induce me to wish the hour deferred that heaven had destined for my last, 'tis the view of my family around me, glancing looks of gratitude and complacency for my tender and compassionate regard; and yet sometimes their presence produces a contrary effect, and I fear to live long enough to mourn the loss of any of those dear pledges of my love, and affection for the best of women.

Nothing can afford more rational and solid amusement, than a review of our past lives, the dangers we have encountered, the storms we have weathered, and the harbour which we shall shortly enter, and there rest free and unmolested. Providence seems, by a variety of dispensations, to have weaned us gradually from a love of life; scarce had we attained to manhood, when the number of our departed friends surpassed those which remained; and from that period
which

which is generally the first of serious reflection, we began to remark the vanity and uncertainty of human happiness. Since then, my friend, the retrospect of our lives presents us with nothing that can excite our fears as to futurity; let us pass the remaining days allotted us with calmness and serenity, ever resigned to the will of the all-wise Author of our being, who alone knows what is most conducive to our best interests. I am, as ever,

Your sincere Friend, &c.

L E T T E R CLXXXV.

Against putting a Youth of moderate Parts to a Profession, which requires an extensive Capacity.

S I R,

I Was much obliged, by the compliment you paid my understanding and judgment, in soliciting my opinion concerning the disposal of your kinsman, who is arrived at a proper age to be put out into the world. You will permit me to express my surprize, at hearing that you designed him for one of the learned professions, either law, physic, or divinity. Now, though I have a very good opinion of the young man's principles, and think him a modest, grave, sober youth, yet I doubt he has not talents, either natural or acquired, for either of those professions, which call for more than ordinary abilities to fill them with due propriety. As I understand he is a tolerable arithmetician, and knows much more of figures than he does of words, I would recommend something in the mercantile or commercial line, in which he will most probably succeed, and prove a useful member of society. I do not think him equal to the extensive field of an universal merchant; yet he is not wanting in common sense, and might succeed in those branches of business which consist meerly in buying and selling with prudence. Large fortunes have been acquired by these means, which stand in need of no extraordinary genius; while very few, comparatively speaking, in the

learned professions, make a conspicuous figure, or considerable fortune. It is more difficult to succeed in the physical line than in the last-mentioned, as much time, and very extensive practice, are absolutely necessary to obtain that fame, without which no essential benefit can accrue to the professor. As to divinity, his maintenance at college will be attended with great expence; and as you cannot reasonably hope, from his narrow capacity, that he will ever attain to a fellowship, or recommend himself to the notice of a nobleman, or person of influence, he will be destitute of patronage, and never rise beyond the degree of a curate. So that as I see not the least prospect of success in either of those professions, I would wish you therefore to decline all thoughts on those heads, and think seriously of what I propose, as most consonant with the lad's genius, and of course most conducive to his interest. You will excuse the freedom with which I have offered my opinion; and if you differ with me, you must not impute the blame to me, whom you have thought proper to make choice of as your counsellor.

I am sincerely your's, &c.

LETTER CLXXXVI.

From a young Lady to her Friend, inviting her to be present at her Marriage.

Dear Madam,

AS a token of that esteem I am ever desirous of shewing for your friendship, I take this means of acquainting you, that Tuesday next, by consent of parties, is fixed for the celebration of my marriage with Mr. Lawson, and requesting the favour of your presence upon the occasion. You know that I have, for some time, permitted the addresses of that gentleman; nevertheless, I was for postponing the awful ceremony, but at the instance of my father it would not be allowed. A change of state appears to me very important; my will must, in some respect, be resigned to that of another; yet from the confidence I repose

in

in his sincerity and affection, that circumstance will, I hope, contribute to my peace and happiness. Bring Mr. Butler in your hand, his company will be equally agreeable to me and my father. I am, with due complement to your mamma and family,

Your's most sincerely.

L E T T E R CLXXXVII.

From a Gentleman whose Wife was lately deceased, to a Clergyman in the Neighbourhood.

Rev. Sir,

FROM the respect I owe your character and function, I take the liberty to address you upon an event to me the most solemn and affecting, assured that you will upon the occasion afford me that advice and consolation which it is your duty and office to dispense. Know then, my dear Friend, that last night I lost in child-bed the most loving and beloved of wives; and to add to my affliction, am left the disconsolate parent of six young children. Notwithstanding the acutest agonies a mortal could suffer, she expired with the utmost resignation and serenity, paying the debt of Nature with chearfulness and alacrity. When the symptoms of speedy dissolution appeared, I approached to bid the last adieu, and pronounce and receive the final blessing. She addressed me, though with faltering accents, in a speech pathetic, pious, and affectionate; recommending me to the protection of that Almighty Being, whose mercy is over all his works; assuring me of her hopes of eternal bliss through the merits of an incarnate Redeemer, and declaring, that upon this foundation she could die in peace. When the children were introduced, they stood around her bed, mourning with anguish the departure of the tenderest of mothers; the piteous sight affected her much; at length she faintly pronounced a general blessing, and then resigned her spirit into the hands of that God who gave it. Thus closed with her the awful scene; she is doubtless happy; but I am left behind, the plaintive mourner of an ir-

reparable loss, furrounded with the cries of her orphan children. Sensibly impressed with so melancholy a situation, it occurred to me that I had a friend to whom I might freely disclose my inmost thoughts; I therefore sat down and addressed you in these lines. If your indisposition prevents you from visiting me, let me entreat the favour of hearing from you, as I never stood so much in need of your friendly and pious admonition as at the present.

I am, with great respect and sincerity,

Your afflicted friend, &c.

LETTER CLXXXVIII.

The Answer.

My dear Friend,

I Heartily condole with you on so affecting and important an event as the loss of so excellent a wife, mother, and friend; by which society, as well as the Christian church, are deprived of a most useful and ornamental member. But you must permit me to dissuade you from immoderate grief, which is highly unbecoming you both as a man and a christian. We must reconcile ourselves to all the dispensations of Providence, remembering that however they appear to us, they are designed for our real good. In a word, they are the will of the Almighty; this should be the grand consideration which should influence our words and actions in every state and condition, whether apparently prosperous or adverse. This very consideration reconciled all the Patriarchs and Prophets of old, and all the Disciples and followers of our Saviour since his divine mission. They all concurred in their declaring their resignation to the will of God: "It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth him good." Nay, the Redeemer of mankind exclaimed in the extremest agonies, "Not my will, but thine be done." Various spiritual advantages are derived from afflictions; they are in many instances tokens of the divine love; they are attended with many inestimable benefits; they serve to wean us from worldly objects,

objects, to induce us to think humbly of ourselves, and lead us to the fountain of all happiness. In all circumstances, and under all dispensations of Providence, we are to look to the great example set before us in the gospel in the life of the blessed Jesus; he is the pattern we are to follow; and if we copy through grace after him, we shall not murmur nor repine at the chastisement of our heavenly Father. To assist your contemplations, and direct your studies on this sacred subject, I would recommend to your attentive and serious perusal an inestimable volume, entitled, *Fleetwood's Life of Our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ* *. There you will find a copious display of the transactions of the Patriarchs of old, as also the doctrine and example of the only perfect pattern for the imitation of all his followers; every individual of whom must be in some degree, (though none in a degree equal to him) a man of sorrows and unacquainted with griefs; for it is through many tribulations we are to enter the kingdom of heaven.

I have said thus much, as what I deem my bounden duty in a sacred and social capacity; and I hope it will lead you to an entire submission to the divine will, and dependance on the divine mercy, through the mediation of an all-prevailing Redeemer, for all blessings temporal and eternal. You must follow your beloved spouse, therefore take heed that you redeem the time; be careful of the education of your children; see to it yourself, that they are brought up in the fear of God, and after the example of the great Author of our religion. To which purpose it will not be improper to cause them to read daily, as soon as capable, a chapter of the volume I recommend, which will explain to them many passages in the sacred pages, and serve the

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purposes

* *Fleetwood's Life of Our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ* is published by Mr. Cooke, in Pater-noster Row. The language is plain, yet elegant; the images striking, the sentiments strictly pious, and the whole evangelically plain. It presents us with a true character of the great Redeemer, and an amiable delineation of his precepts. The pious author has adapted it to the meanest capacities, and the poorest person may purchase it; being published in 25 six-penny numbers, each embellished with a beautiful copper-plate; or neatly bound and lettered, Price 16s.

purposes of entertainment and divine instruction. Thus Sir, I trust I have dealt faithfully with you on the occasion, been attentive to your present and eternal interest, and have only to recommend you to the divine blessing, which is the only thing, the one thing needful. May you be blessed here with the true knowledge of God through Christ, and then you will be for ever blessed in the regions of glory hereafter; which is the sincere prayer of

Your affectionate friend, &c.

L E T T E R CLXXXIX.

To a Friend, on Prejudice.

Dear Sir,

AS I sincerely wish your improvement in every accomplishment that can add dignity to human nature, I would endeavour to guard you against one of the greatest barriers, and most prevailing obstacles to a progress in useful knowledge; and that is PREJUDICE. By this term, I would not be supposed to understand a propensity to like or dislike any object casually presented to our view: this may rather be called predilection, as it is evident from experience we may, on seeing, for the first time, two persons equally meritorious, be more favourably disposed towards the one than the other, and yet not capable of assigning the least cause for the same.

Prejudice, prepossession, or prejudging, (for the terms are synonymous) is the forming an opinion or judgment on any matter or subject, without previous examination into its nature and properties, and receiving the same as authentic or confirmed; or, on the other hand, suffering our own opinion and judgment to be implicitly guided by those of others, without investigating the grounds on which they are founded.

If you attend to conversation in general, you will find the prevailing influence of this baneful obstacle to the exercise of our reasonable faculties, from which arise all that positiveness and presumption that are
equally

equally despicable and disgusting. Prejudice is not only the cause of error, but also of persisting in error; for it is notorious, that many persons of good natural understanding, wanting resolution to break through customs, or renounce opinions adopted or imbibed on no solid basis, have persisted to act, and even professed to think, in direct opposition to the dictates of their own reason and judgment. It is the nurse of error, the bane of reason, the foe of truth, the perverter of the mind, and the source of numberless ills, both in the social and literary worlds. It so corrupts the mind, and enslaves our reason, that through want of exercising their powers, our conceptions are bounded, our notions contracted, our ideas unjust, and our judgments shamefully perverted. We are incapable of examining any thing ourselves, and of course take every thing upon trust. This affects both our opinion and conduct, renders us unjust, ill-natured, unsociable, and dogmatical. In a moral sense, we mistake evil for good, and good for evil; in short, where prejudice prevails all is wrong. To avoid its baneful influence, it behoves us when we come to years of understanding and reflection, to examine into the validity of our opinions, to take nothing but upon trial, and dispossess ourselves of former ideas, in order to set free the mind for the reception of truth, founded upon conviction, according to those beautiful lines of Matt Prior:

“ So from the time we first begin to know,
 “ We live and learn, yet not the wiser grow;
 “ But he who truth from falsehood would discern,
 “ Must first disrobe the mind, and all unlearn;
 “ To dispossess the child the mortal lives,
 “ And death approaches ere the man arrives.
 “ Thus truth lies hid, and ere we can explore
 “ The glittering gem, our fleeting life is o’er.”

Therefore in all studies and enquiries, upon all subjects within the compass of the human capacity, we must form a resolution to dispossess ourselves of former opinions; or, according to the poet's striking phrase-

ology, “disrobe the mind;” determine to enquire impartially into what is advanced for and against, and then summon the aid of truth and reason to direct us. Had not this been the practice of some of the greatest men in the world, we should never have been favoured with those valuable improvements that have been made in the liberal arts, but have remained in former darkness and ignorance. I have been rather prolix, because I think the subject of the utmost importance to a young student, and therefore recommend it to your most serious consideration.

I am, your sincere Friend, &c.

L E T T E R CXC.

From a Friend to a Lady, on her extreme Fondness for a Lap-dog.

Madam,

THOUGH I detest every instance of cruelty even shewn to a brute, I cannot, without concern, behold a lady of your sense and discretion, give such glaring proofs of folly and weakness, as to be ravished with the antic gestures of a little yelping cur: nay, I must confess, that your attention to this animal, when I have been particularly addressing my discourse to you, has frequently excited my indignation. I have been often puzzled to find out what extraordinary qualities this animal possesses, to engross, as it were, your favour and attention. Do you pay a greater regard to instinct than to reason? Chloe seems duly grateful for the benefits she receives from your fondness and assiduities; nor am I less sensible of the honour conferred on me, when you deign to vouchsafe me your agreeable company and conversation. Compare the animal with the rational, and decide impartially the preference. Does Chloe fetch and carry at your beck? I am your devoted servant to command. Does she fawn and sooth with lambent kisses? I am ready to overwhelm you with the warmest caresses. Does she, by tones and gestures, signify her sense of your favour, and the power of her attachment? I am willing, by words and actions, to testify my sense of your regard, and the strength of my affection.

fection. In short, I must set myself up as a competitor for your esteem; and notwithstanding the prevailing influence of Madam Chloe, I flatter myself, if you would condescend to make the trial, and permit me the exertion of my abilities, I should acquit myself so satisfactorily, as to entitle me, in your opinion, to that decided superiority I must beg leave to claim in your regard and esteem, as

Your devoted humble servant.

LETTER CXCI.

From a learned Gentleman to his Friend, on reading History.

S I R,

THE pleasure and assiduity with which I hear you prosecute your studies in your present retirement, afford me infinite satisfaction, as I am extremely anxious for your improvement in every commendable acquisition. You do me the honour to refer to my opinion concerning the particular subject you should now make choice of for employing a due portion of your time in reading. I ingenuously, at this season, recommend the reading of history in preference to other subjects; because it displays example in a most striking manner to our view, and enables us to form a correct opinion of the different events and characters in the great world, which are now the universal topics of conversation. We may consider history in two distinct points of view, as universal and particular. Universal history includes all the transactions that have occurred from the earliest accounts of time to the present day, and is of such vast scope and extent, as to engross more time than you can possibly spare from your other studies. It will then at present be only necessary to speak of its general utility, and point out what particular branch should be first attended to. The reading of history at once entertains and instructs; it submits to our reflections the merits of the events it displays, and those events are so many examples we have to avoid, or follow. It describes political ma-

mœuvres, and military transactions, and thereby brings to the test of our judgment, the conduct of statesmen and general officers. It leads us into the cabinets of sovereigns, and enables us to distinguish the honest counsellor from the fawning sycophant. In a word, it comprizes, in the compass of a few years, an extensive experience that many years could not furnish without its assistance. History represents mankind in every rank, degree, and station of life, in their proper colours. There the greatest bear rank and precedence from their virtues alone; as their virtues exalt, so in proportion their vices degrade them; which, from the relation in which they stand to the rest of mankind, must be in a superlative degree of proportion; and when they resign their sceptre in the arrest of the tremendous messenger, they undergo, without court pomp, parade, or flattery, the judgment of all people, and of all ages. This useful branch of study, by tracing effects up to their original causes, amply displays the wisdom, beauty, and equity of the Divine Providence; and shews, in a due and impartial light, the merit and demerit of human actions. As to the species of history with which I would recommend you to begin your study, it is certainly that of your own country. As you have received a Christian education, you have of course been made acquainted with Sacred History, by reading the Bible throughout many times repeatedly; it is one of the first books put into our hands, and contains all that is authentic in that branch. But to that of our country—to send young persons on a foreign tour to acquire a knowledge of the laws, constitutions and events of other nations, while they are ignorant of their own, argues the highest folly and absurdity, and reflects national disgrace on their country, as well as disqualifies them from forming comparisons, which should be one grand object of their travels. Such persons resemble those who are masters of all knowledge, but the most important of all, the knowledge of themselves. The history of Britain will stand as distinguished in the annals of time, as that of any nation in the universe. Nor is there an action recorded, or a character celebrated by the historians

rians of Greece or of Rome, that stands unrivalled in the history of our native country. The sciences have been extended and improved; the laws amended and enlarged in a degree infinitely superior to the systems devised and executed either by the Greek or Roman nations. These remarks may suffice, to prove the preference that should be given to the history of our own country; to ascertain which of the many copies [as human life would be too short to study them all] is most eligible, depends on these particulars; universality, authenticity, perspicuity, and impartiality. I think, on a particular and comparative view of the different writers on this useful subject, Russel's History of England * lays equal, if not superior claim, to any of his contemporaries, upon the principles before-mentioned; and as it contains a detail of some late transactions unrecorded in any other, is consequently more complete, and may with candour and impartiality be preferred. I shall reserve the other branches of study for a future occasion; and am, with great respect,

Your's sincerely, &c.

L E T T E R CXCI.

From the same.

Dear Sir,

ACcording to promise in my last, I resume the subject, as it relates to those necessary branches of study which I would recommend to your particular attention and regard. I have endeavoured to set forth the

* This instructive, entertaining, and elegant work, is completed in a large superb volume in folio, and may be had of J. Cooke, No. 17, Pater-noster Row. It is embellished with upwards of one hundred curious and valuable engravings, representing, in a striking manner, the most material transactions that occur in the course of the history; with whole length figures of all the monarchs, from William the Conqueror to the present time. Price, neatly bound and lettered, 2l. 8s.

the peculiar advantages you will derive from attending to the history of your own country, previously to that of all others; but in doing this effectually, you must have recourse to three capital assistants: these are chronology, geography, and logic; without which it will be a barren and unprofitable pursuit: chronology will point out to you the precise time in which all such events as are worthy of record, fell out. Geography will mark out the particular parts of this habitable earth where those memorable events took place; and lastly, logic will assist you in forming a right judgment, or ascertaining the merits of characters and actions. These are essential to the study of history in general, and consequently necessary to the acquiring a competent knowledge of that of your country; they should ever go hand in hand, as they respectively tend to elucidate each other; nor can they be separated, without breaking that grand chain of connexion which unites the whole. As the most modern system of geography, if executed with competent ability, from the advantages of having recourse to all the preceding, and improving upon them as far as the nature of the science will admit, must be deemed the best; I know of none from which you can derive more assistance in this particular, than from that of Middleton*, to which I would advise immediate recourse.

When you have read the history of England at large, and well digested the same, to impress the most memorable

* *Middleton's New and Complete System of Geography* is one of the most noble, useful, and entertaining works, lately published. It contains not only an accurate, authentic, and interesting account of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, as consisting of continents, island, oceans, rivers, seas, lakes, &c. and divided into empires, kingdoms, states, &c. with the limits, climate, natural and artificial curiosities, history, laws, religion, trade, customs, and manners of the inhabitants of each, but includes all the modern improvements in arts, sciences, trade, and manufactures; and comprizes all the new discoveries made in the late voyages round the world, towards the south and north poles, &c. The whole is embellished and illustrated with above 120 superb copper-plates, maps, charts, &c. forming together a complete atlas, and the finest set of prints ever given with any similar performance. This elegant work may be had complete, neatly bound and lettered, price 3l. 3s. or in 100 weekly numbers, (Price 6d. each) one or more at a time, as may best suit the convenience of the purchaser. Sold by J. Cooke, No. 17, Pater-noster Row.

morable transactions on your mind, and furnish you with an abridgement of the whole, bringing them as it were into one grand point of view, there is a valuable little poetical work, entitled Egerton's New History of England in Verse *, which will serve at once to amuse your fancy and refresh your memory; as two descriptive lines in verse will be more effectual in that respect than twenty can be in prose; though by all means the study of the latter must precede that of the former, as the basis or ground-work of the general system. I shall take occasion hereafter to offer you a few thoughts on the study of history, as it refers to other nations. In the mean time believe me to be with great sincerity,

Your humble servant.

L E T T E R CXCIH.

From the same.

Dear Sir,

WHEN according to the plan laid down in the two preceding letters, you are grounded in the history of your native country, you may proceed to those of other nations, and I think that of the Jews claims a prior title to your notice. Josephus has greatly illustrated and elucidated the most obscure passages in their history, though the most authentic part is to be found in the Old Testament; but it will be necessary to peruse the whole as presented in a regular succession of facts. I would recommend to you Kimp-
ton's.

* This elegant and instructive little work, call'd *A New History of England in Verse; or, The Entertaining British Memorialist*, contains the annals of Great-Britain, from the Roman Invasion to the present period; in which every incident is poetically recorded for the help of memory, and the greater amusement of the Reader. It is particularly design'd for the use of youth, but will serve at the same time to refresh the memories of persons in riper years. To the whole is prefixed an Introduction on the Nature and Study of History. Price only Three Shillings bound.

ton's New and Compleat History of the Holy Bible * ; on a proper perusal of which, you will be furnished with an excellent system of sacred history, and be thereby acquainted with circumstances of the most undeniable authority. The Roman history comprises a series of events as important and interesting as ever occurred on the grand theatre of the world. They extended their conquests to the most distant known climes, and gave laws to all the earth ; in short, they arose to a pitch of grandeur unparalleled, but, in process of time, dwindled into ruin and obscurity. In reading and studying the respective histories of different countries and nations, you will be greatly assisted in a proper knowledge of them, by referring occasionally to the

* The work here referred to, is entitled *A New and Complete Universal History of the Holy Bible*, from the Creation of the World to the full Establishment of Christianity, by Our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and his holy Evangelists, Apostles, Disciples, &c. Containing a clear and concise Account of every remarkable Transaction recorded in the Sacred Scriptures, during a Period of more than Four Thousand Years. Particularly The Creation of the World—The Formation and Fall of Man—The Universal Deluge—The Building of Babel, and the Confusion of Tongues—The Call of Abraham—The Miracles wrought by Moses in Egypt and other places—The Travels and various Revolutions of the Israelites—The Nature of the Mosaic Institution—The various Predictions of the Prophets, concerning the Coming and Offices of the Messiah ; with other Prophecies that have been and still are fulfilling, in different Parts of the World. Including particular Accounts of the Lives and Transactions of the most eminent Patriarchs, Prophets, and other Servants of God, who, by an inspired Grace, have distinguished themselves in the display of Divine Wisdom ; such as Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, David, Solomon, Job, Isaiah, Hezekiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Daniel, Jonah, Hosea, Zechariah, Amos, Malachi, &c. Illustrated with Notes Historical, Theological, Geographical, and Explanatory ; in which obscure Passages are rendered clear, seeming Inconsistencies reconciled, the various Significations of the most expressive Appellatives elucidated, false Translations amended, and former Errors corrected. By the Rev. Edward Kimpton. Embellished with a great number of beautiful copper-plates, descriptive of the most distinguished transactions related in the Sacred Writings.—This excellent book may be had compleat, elegantly bound and lettered, price 1l. 16s. or in 60 Weekly Numbers, (Price 6d. each) one or more at a time, as may best suit the convenience of the purchaser. Printed for J. Cooke, No. 17, Pater-noster-Row.

the Complete System of Geography, recommended in my last.

When you are completely versed in this most necessary accomplishment of the human mind, you may proceed to the study of biography, a part of history leading to a minute detail of particulars, of which the latter is a general representation. This, Sir, is the plan I followed myself in the early part of life; I therefore prescribe it to you as most practicable, and most probable to answer the grand end and design of this part of education. I wish you success in your studies, and in every undertaking of your life, which I hope and trust will be honourable to yourself, and those with whom you are particularly connected, as well as beneficial to society in general. I am,

Your's, sincerely, &c.

L E T T E R CXCIV.

From a Gentleman at Lisbon to his Friend in London, on Arbitrary Power and Popish Superstition.

Dear Sir,

I Am convinced now by experience and observation, that we seldom estimate the most important blessings as we ought, till we know the want of them; and am led to this remark, by being a melancholy witness to that wretched slavery to which the people in general are subject in this part of the world. One principal consideration that distinguishes our happy constitution as it refers to the state, is the grand privilege of trial by peers; that is, by persons of equal rank with ourselves, and being condemned or acquitted according to their verdict. But here the matter is totally different; for instead of trial in the manner as we mentioned, and before a judge who is responsible to the people for his conduct, the determination both of law and fact is left to an absolute judge; nor has the power aggrieved any appeal from the same.

In criminal prosecutions the case is still more dreadful and deplorable; the culprit being tried in his absence,

sence, is afterwards brought into court, and upon confession of the facts alledged against him, receives sentence of death ; but if he denies the whole or any part of the charge, he is put to the torture ; when perhaps the extreme pain may extort from him confession of crimes he never committed ; he dies guiltless, falling a sacrifice to an institution the most arbitrary and cruel. Private property is likewise exposed to the merciless depredations of a tyrant, who may prostitute it to the reward of an infamous favourite, or the gratification of an extravagant courtesan. In matters of religion and conscience, they are subject to the same servility of mind, from the oppression of the ecclesiastical power, as they are in other instances from that of the civil ; being compelled to assent to the most palpable absurdities, and conform to the grossest superstitions, that can disgrace human nature and common sense, dishonour the Creator, or bring a reflection upon pure religion, and that upon pain of the severest punishment both as to property and person. The horrid practices of that infernal tribunal called the inquisition *, prove amongst
other

* If you are desirous of being acquainted with the horrid transactions that have taken place in consequence of bigotry to religion, I would recommend to your serious perusal an admirable work lately published, intituled *The New Book of Martyrs, or Complete Christian Martyrology* ; containing an authentic and genuine Historical Account of the many dreadful Persecutions against the Church of Christ, in all Parts of the World, by Pagans, Jews, Turks, Papists, and others, from the earliest Ages of the Church, to the present Period. Including the Life, Sufferings, and Martyrdom of our Blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, with the Martyrdoms of the Apostles, Evangelists, and other Primitive Christians. With a Sketch of the Martyrdoms of the Faithful and Virtuous in the first Ages of the World ; the Persecutions of the Maccabees by the Greeks ; of the Hebrews by the Egyptians ; and of the Children of Israel by the Philistines, and other barbarous Nations. The Whole interspersed with Accounts of several singular Judgments against Persecutors, a great Variety of Original Anecdotes, and many curious Lives and Memoirs, Forming, at once, a complete History of Persecutions, and a Biography of Martyrs. Illustrated with a great number of beautiful copper-plates, representing the various modes of cruelly torturing Christians for their constancy, and putting them to death for their Faith. By the Rev. Henry Southwell, LL. D. late of Magdalen-College, Cambridge, Rector

other instances, by comparison, the peculiar advantages we enjoy in the preservation of our rights civil and religious. I shall be glad to hear from you as soon as convenient; in the mean time I subscribe myself,

Your affectionate friend and humble servant, &c.

L E T T E R CXCIV.

The Friend's Answer.

My Dear Friend,

I Received your's, and after so long silence rejoice to hear you are still in existence. Your concise but accurate account of the slavery, mental and corporeal, under which those unfortunate wretches have groaned for centuries past, affected me much; nor could I withhold blessing my fate, which had cast my lot in a land of civil and religious liberty. Mr. Addison beautifully describes the situation of people labouring under mental oppression, in two lines:

“ They starve in midst of Nature's bounty curst,
“ And in the loaded vineyard die for thirst.”

Thank God we have not experienced these calamities yet; though from many concurring circumstances during a series of years, there is reason to apprehend a wish and desire in certain persons to sap the foundation of our most excellent constitution, and gradually introduce that detested power, which arrogantly claims equal dominion over the body and the mind. But every attempt of this kind has hitherto met with that opposition and noble defiance which are worthy of Britons, worthy of men; and I trust there is yet left amongst us virtue sufficient to guard, protect and preserve, our dearest rights, the common gifts of God and Nature, inviolate, and so transmit them to the latest posterity.

The

Rector of Afterby in Lincolnshire, and Author of the Universal Family Bible. Printed for J. Cooke, No. 17, in Pater-noster-Row. This Work may be had complete, neatly bound and lettered, price 1l. 6s. or in 40 Numbers, price 6d. each.

The complicated war in which we are unhappily concerned, and the fatal effects it has upon trade, has cast a most gloomy aspect on affairs in general; how it will end time alone can determine. We have therefore only to hope such a change in events as will restore and confirm to us as a nation, peace, happiness, freedom and honour. I am dear friend,

Your's sincerely.

L E T T E R CXCVI.

From a young Gentleman in Town to his Tutor in the Country, on the prevailing Vices and Temptations of the Metropolis.

Rev. Sir,

I Take the first opportunity of discharging a duty I shall ever think incumbent on me, from the pious care you took in my education, and the excellent admonitions you gave me for my future conduct in life. I am now settled in a good set of chambers in Gray's Inn, where I intend to prosecute my studies with the greatest diligence. Notwithstanding my disposition is naturally serious, I find the greatest caution and resolution necessary to guard against the vices and follies which so universally abound in this place. My situation obliges me occasionally to associate (particularly at commons during term time) with the students of our inn in general; and I am sorry to find many of them not only ignorant of the first principles of religion, but addicted to the most enormous vices. Without, temptations to dissipation and extravagance are so numerous, that it requires the utmost discretion and prudence to avoid them. The streets and places of public amusement abound with sharpers and prostitutes; and there are such guises assumed in point of appearance, that it is difficult to distinguish character, or ascertain the gentleman from the scoundrel. As the surest method of preventing imposition and corruption, amidst such variety of fraud and deception, I am determined to avoid all their known haunts, and to form no friendships but

but with persons of approved honour and integrity. The greatest part of my time I allot to my studies; the remainder I shall spend in innocent amusement and recreation. But as I am convinced of the frailty of youth, and the want of experience, I must request the continuance of your correspondence; and that you will, with your usual candour, go on to reprove and admonish me as occasion may require.

I am, Rev. Sir,

Your much obliged and devoted humble servant.

L E T T E R CXCVII.

The Answer.

My dear Sir,

YOUR kind letter gives me just ground to rejoice that the pains I have taken with your education are amply compensated in the good effects produced on your morals. The remarks you make on the general depravity which prevails amongst your fellow students, are I fear but too true; you will therefore do well to guard against the pernicious influence of their example. Nor are your observations on the impositions and temptations with which you are continually surrounded in London less pertinent: I cannot say I have had experience sufficient to acquaint you with the precise modes they follow to carry on their iniquitous schemes, and practise their vile arts; but I can refer you to a little book* well worthy your perusal, as it not only enumerates the whole catalogue of frauds, but lays down such

* The cheats practised by all sorts of sharpers in London are laid open to the public in a pretty little Book published by Mr. Cooke, in Pater-noster-Row, entitled, *The Cheats of London exposed; or the Tricks of the Town laid open to both Sexes*; embellished with a variety of copper-plates. There is not one fraud practised in this great city which is not mentioned in it. There cannot be a more useful companion for those who come from the country, and the whole displays a spirit of real genuine virtue. Price only 1s.

such rules of conduct, as, if followed, will prevent those mischiefs which are frequently attended with most fatal consequences. The most salutary advice I can give you is, to retain and cherish those notions of religious duties you imbibed in early life, and that regard for moral rectitude, which however despised by the thoughtless and abandoned, is essential to form the character of a christian and a gentleman, and the glory and boast of every wise and good man. I know there prevails an opinion not more general than false, that the moment a man enters into the profession of the law, he disclaims all moral obligations, and holds it a duty of pleading indiscriminately the cause of vice as of virtue. But this opinion is palpably erroneous; and I take upon me to aver, that a man may in every sense possess christianity, with its concomitant virtues, at the bar, as in the pulpit; witness the late Judge Hale, the great Earl of Clarendon, and the virtuous Lord Camden. I wish, by citing examples so singularly shining and ornamental, to stir you up to a laudable emulation of imitating the same, which will equally redound to my satisfaction and your honour and happiness. Let me hear from you often; be free and open, and I will be candid and explicit. I am, dear Sir,

Your sincere well-wisher and humble servant.

L E T T E R CXCVIII.

From a young Merchant, soliciting the Advice of a Friend retired from Business.

Dear Sir,

THE frequent instructions and admonitions with which you kindly favoured me during my apprenticeship, not only lay me under infinite obligations to you, but induce me to request your counsel and advice now I am embarked in the mercantile life on my own account. My endeavours for the two years I have been in business, have been attended with all the success I could desire or expect; yet from the universal decline of commerce, and the frequent failures that unavoidably ensue,

ensue, I am alarmed for my own fate, and tremble at the thought of my name being inserted in the bankrupt list. Those who by idleness or dissipation are diverted from that close attention to business which is absolutely necessary to the carrying it on with any probable view of success, can hope for little less; for as diligence and sobriety are qualities essential to the merchant, men of debauched and dissolute lives can never reasonably hope to prosper in their undertakings. If such fall short of supporting their credit, it is no matter of wonder; but when persons of apparent property and approved character fall a sacrifice to the calamity of the times, I am filled with horror for my own situation, which I consider as daily liable to the same shock. You cannot but have been witness to this melancholy truth; your long and extensive knowledge of commercial affairs, must add a sanction both to your opinion and advice; and I am persuaded, from the benevolence of your disposition, you will impart them freely to the cautious but inexperienced beginner, who at a critical juncture addresses you upon a matter of the utmost importance. I do not aspire to a state of grandeur; my views do not extend beyond a mediocrity in life. I only desire to live with comfort, and die with credit. Such, Sir, are my hopes and wishes; to accomplish which I am sensible much caution is requisite, much circumspection indispensable; and therefore apply to you for such rules and directions as may appear proper, determined if possible not to deviate therefrom in any one single instance. I remain, with a grateful remembrance of all favours,

Dear Sir,

Your much obliged and most humble servant, &c.

L E T T E R CXCIX.

The Answer.

Dear Peter,

THE good sense, diffidence and caution, evident both from the nature and motive of your request in the last letter, give me the most solid ground to conclude

clude you will never fall under the disagreeable predicament you so seriously lament in others and apprehend yourself. You seem to discover much surprise at the failure of persons apparently of affluent fortunes and the fairest characters, and more, when you find upon the award of a commission, there is not property sufficient to raise a payment of five shillings in the pound: but if you were to attend to the particulars of their examination, your surprise and wonder would most certainly subside. I readily and candidly admit that the present general stagnation of trade is one grand source of the present almost general bankruptcy; but, upon a minute investigation of matters, there will appear some other causes with which you seem to be unacquainted, and which therefore as a friend I will endeavour to point out. The first is inattention to business, from an attachment to pleasures, company and public entertainments, and a consequent neglect of keeping a regular account of all proceedings, as to loss and gain, as well as daily expences; for without this constant practice, a man can never know the true state of his affairs.

In the next place nothing tends more to enlarge the bankrupt list than a general affectation of those who are called the great, in a luxurious and pompous stile of living. This vice has prevailed in a most extraordinary degree amongst the merchants and traders of London, ever since the minions of court have spread their baneful influence throughout their city; formerly they were characterised by a gravity of appearance and decency of deportment; their time was taken up in the concerns of business, and to support their credit was their highest ambition: but now the face of things is changed; gravity and decency are degenerated into levity and dissipation, insomuch that all distinction is levelled, and the wife of Mr. Deputy Soapfuds is hardly known from my Lady Barbara Bounce. The last bane to trade I shall mention, is that propensity to which our citizens have too long and too generally been addicted, namely, of gaming in the alley. This is commonly the last resource to prop their tottering credit, or repair a broken fortune; but instead of being attended with the desired

5 success,

success, it frequently seals their ruin; and I remember a once worthy and industrious friend, who through losses sustained by these desperate adventures, put a period to his wretched existence. Thus have I briefly stated to you some of the principal causes of those evils which you so justly lament, and apprehend as your own fate. I had only to add a word or two of advice, by attending to which, I hope and trust you will not only avoid them, but insure your success, and consequently your happiness. The shortest lesson I can propose, is to take warning from those who have failed, and pursue a line of conduct totally reverse, remembering the old adage:

“ Learn to be wise from others harm,

“ And you shall do full well.”

I am your sincere friend and well-wisher.

L E T T E R C C.

To a Friend, expressing an Aversion to formal Visits.

Dear Sir,

THOUGH of a social disposition, I have often, of late, wished myself the inhabitant of some re-cluse cell, or lonesome cottage, if it were possible they could shield me from the vexation and impertinence of those harrassing mortals whom I term visitors by profession. So insuperable is my aversion to these reptiles, that, however affable or entertaining they affect to be, I consider them not as paying visits, but visitations, and imagine I am doing penance each moment I am compelled to give them audience. If they would but confine their visits to one another, the rest of mankind might enjoy the pleasures of social intercourse uninterrupted; but they infest all quarters, and though cyphers in the line of society, obtrude themselves in all places, and on all occasions. It was to one of these impertinent intruders that I was prevented from fulfilling my engagement with you yesterday; but as you know the cause, I flatter myself, as a friend, you will excuse the neglect.

I am, &c.

T H E N E W
L E T T E R W R I T E R.

P A R T VI.
M I S C E L L A N E O U S L E T T E R S.

L E T T E R CCI.

From a Young Lady to her Aunt, in Reply to a Letter enforcing the Practice of Piety and Virtue.

Dear Madam,

TH E concern you so affectionately manifest for my present and future welfare in your last letter, lays me under the highest obligation of observing the contents, and fulfilling, to the best of my power, the duties recommended therein. I attend with diligence to the several branches of polite education, in which you have taken so much care to have me properly initiated; and have made a considerable progress in some, and a tolerable beginning in others. But above all, I have the pleasure to assure you, that my attention to a polite, shall never detach me from a due regard to a religious, education. When I have discharged my school duties, I am happy in every opportunity of retiring and discharging the more important duty I owe my Creator, and of reading and consulting books which inculcate the practice of piety and virtue; and I can assure you farther, that not a day passes, in which I
do

do not read one or more passages in the sacred volume. I am hereby led to return you thanks for the Christian's Dictionary you was so kind as to send me * ; a book I find of great service in explaining the meaning of difficult words and parts that at first view appear obscure; and which I therefore hope to reap great benefit from consulting. I trust I shall ever keep your pious admonitions alive in my memory, to deter me from whatever may have the appearance of evil, and incite me to the pursuit of my duty to God and my fellow creatures ; which, as you have ever taught me, I consider the end of my existence.

I shall be happy to hear from you upon every convenient occasion ; beg you will present my respects to whom due, and believe me to be, with the greatest sincerity,

Your dutiful Niece, &c.

L E T T E R CCII.

To a Lady, in Commendation of her Manner of Writing.

Madam,

THOUGH I am ever made happy by your presence, yet I cannot but be concerned that the hopes I had of seeing you have robbed me of the pleasure of writing to you, and what I regret infinitely more, deprived me of your answer. I need but refer you to the last favour, to convince you, that in this declaration I pay you no compliment ; it was so replete with wit, that had it been less obliging, I must have

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been

* This admirable work is published in weekly numbers by Mr. Cooke, in Pater-noster Row. It contains the whole substance of the Christian Religion, written in an easy, agreeable manner, so as to make divine truths have a lasting impression on the minds of youth, as well as those who are advanced in years. By the most beautiful copper-plates, engraved at a vast expence, Piety, Virtue, Morality and Vice, are all brought home to the senses, and the mind is equally instructed by seeing, as by reading.

been delighted; and at the same time so very courteous, that I must have been charmed had it been less witty.

The beauties of your mind so enhance your personal qualifications, that I am now become your's more than ever, and have proved wholly, what I thought impossible, that the esteem I had for you could receive any addition. I must ingenuously confess, that once in my life I have been made happy by your absence; and that when I read over your charming epistle, I make a doubt of what before I ever confidently believed, that I could not receive a greater satisfaction than that of seeing you and hearing you speak; for which, however, I wait with the greatest impatience, and am,

Madam,

Your devoted Servant.

L E T T E R CCIII.

To a Gentleman, in Commendation of his polite Style of Writing, as well as Manner of conferring a Favour.

Dear Sir,

THOUGH your modesty and good sense have frequently enjoined me not to compliment you in other letters with which you have honoured me, to pass over unnoticed your last favour, would equally impeach my gratitude and my candour. In the course of all my epistolary correspondence, I never met with a similar instance of politeness and ingenuity, to that particular passage, wherein you assure me you are desirous of advancing your money for the dispatch of my affairs; for surely, notwithstanding that diffidence which adds a lustre to your merit, you must acknowledge it is a noble way of offering a service, and that few people are accustomed to such a stile of conveying the most generous disposition. To comply with the request of a friend, argues a noble soul; but to anticipate even his wants, is a virtue found in few. Such are the expressions, and such the sentiments contained in your last, that I
can

can never sufficiently admire them; you will permit me, therefore, with the profoundest respect, to subscribe myself

Your much obliged,

and very humble Servant.

L E T T E R CCIV.

In Answer to a Letter of Compliment.

Madam,

I AM wholly at a loss in what manner to receive the commendations you are pleased so politely to bestow; as I confess I am not humble enough to reject, nor presumptuous enough to admit them; beside, the one instance would bespeak me vain, the other ill-mannered. What then remains but to do you the justice your behaviour demands, in considering the expressions as directly your own? Though I can hardly persuade myself they are applicable to me, yet they cannot fail of producing their effect, in convincing me of the brilliancy of your wit, and the force of that eulogium which commends, be the object deserving or undeserving; for which I can only appeal to yourself, and subscribe myself, Madam,

Your for ever obliged, and

most devoted humble Servant.

L E T T E R CCV.

To a Lady, on the odious Character of a Pedant.

Madam,

I Must beg of you to suffer me to undeceive you with respect to the high opinion you entertain of Mr. Simon Stiff, your boasted wit. No man ever talks so much to so little purpose; he would monopolize conversation,

versation, invade the rights of society, and deprive the rest of the world of the liberty of speech. He has the assurance to endeavour to persuade you he has seen every thing, done every thing, and knows every thing, and that with all the presumption of the most romantic hero. As to his knowledge of books, he would stun you with running over a list of titles, of which he has read little more than the title page, or what he has skimmed over, but could never digest; so that his head may be justly compared to a lumber-room, stuffed with fragments, trash and rubbish.

But how different a character is the man of real science! Nay, how preferable is it to be social, with a common degree of understanding, than impertinent, with all the knowledge in the world! It excites our contempt to see the pedant rack his imagination for a poultry pun, and torture his fancy for a jest, too low and blunt to be laughed at. The wretch is continually on the hunt for a quibble; and when he starts any thing of that kind, he bursts into a vulgar roar, and would be affronted if the company did not follow his example. In short, I am so disgusted with this odious character, that if I was disposed to become eminently learned, the very idea of it would cure my ambition, and I would wish rather to live in ignorance. Such a contemptible being, therefore, I hope will never share your esteem, whilst I subscribe myself, with great respect,

Your humble admirer, and
most devoted Servant, &c.

L E T T E R CCVI.

To a Passionate Man.

S I R,

IT has been justly observed, that if mankind were not subject to passions, there would be no use for reason, which in moral life is the only guide to shew what is good and what is evil. Now it is the peculiar study

study of philosophy to reduce the passions to an obedience to this director, without the conduct of which, mankind, notwithstanding their boasted superiority, would be absolute slaves. It would be endless to recount the mischiefs that have resulted from the passions, when suffered to act independently of reason. But as I have observed the passion of anger prevalent with you, I would wish to confine the rest of my remarks to that alone. Anger has been very properly defined, as a sudden blaze of pride, which, from a principle of self-love, rebels against reason; or, in other words, a sudden desire to overcome present opposition. But this foolish passion, instead of promoting, counteracts its very design; for the surest method to defeat a man in his purposes, is to make him angry, thereby dispossessing him of his reason, and deprive him of the power of acting or speaking with due propriety. In the business of controversy, a good cause is often lost, and a superior understanding overcome, by the meer force of a cool temper. A very incompetent adversary will gain ground in proportion to the heat in which he can put his opponent; whereas the most shrewd and dangerous antagonists are such as cannot be provoked. Rage is not so formidable as it is ridiculous; for it excites a man to act nonsense as well as talk it; and it is strange that reason cannot overcome absurdity, and escape the effects of it.

Anger is equally mischievous in war, in politics, in the church, and in short in every social system, civil or religious. As all anger implies the subjection of our reason to the prevalence of an absurd passion, we must ever be upon our guard to check its first fallies, ere it be too late, and we fall a prey to the horrid ravages it makes on the understanding. That these observations may produce a desired effect, is the sincere wish of

Your's, &c.

L E T T E R CCVII.

From one Lady to another, on Female Education.

Dear Madam,

AS you candidly solicit my opinion and advice on the very interesting subject of female education, having had many years experience of the same, I shall offer my thoughts with the greatest freedom. The great point in conducting the education of young ladies is, as I take it, to avoid extravagance on the one hand, and meanness on the other. The error, indeed the misfortune of the present age, seems to be a desire of exceeding in external appearance, without regard to rank or station in life, either owing to the misconduct of mothers, or those entrusted with the education of the female sex. Instead of inculcating principles of humility, resignation and contentedness, with the station in which Providence has placed them, young persons are taught to aspire to prefer the glare of dress to all mental accomplishments; and in a word, to consider themselves as what they are not, nor ever can be. Thus the seeds of vanity being sown in early life, influence the whole conduct in advancing years. If a girl is led to imagine herself a lady, without the appendages of birth or fortune, can it reasonably be expected that she can ever be a wife proper for a man in the line of trade or business, though common sense must dictate she has nothing greater to expect? Nor is such a character only unfit for alliance with one of the same station in life; but where connected, must generally bring on misery and ruin, as the dire but necessary effects of pride and extravagance. The most prudent, and of course successful way of educating young females, is to instil into their minds notions consistent with their own station and sphere in life, and on all occasions to teach them not to expect more than their birth entitles them to. It would further redound to the interest of society in general, as well as individuals in particular, if persons entrusted with the education of our females, whether parents or school-mistresses, would

would cause them to learn some useful employment* ; as it would fill up their time, exclude vain thoughts, and prevent the fatal effects of idleness and dissipation. This is my plain, but honest opinion, upon the subject referred to ; and as such, is submitted to your judgment and practice, by

Your obedient humble servant, &c.

L E T T E R CCVIII.

To a Lady, complaining of Neglect in Writing.

Madam,

FROM your late instances of neglect, you must permit me to return you thanks for consigning me to entire oblivion. Since your departure I have seen very obliging things in the letters with which you have favoured your friends ; but not one word that carries the most distant hint of my being honoured with a place in your remembrance. This mark of contempt is my chief consolation, as I infer from thence your humane design of killing me outright, rather than suffering me to languish between hope and despair. I therefore now look on myself as dead, since I live not in your thoughts, which was the only happiness that rendered my existence desirable. I am, Madam,

Your most humble and obedient servant.

* There are many books on female education, but the best and most useful are *The Ladies Monitor, or Polite Instructions for the Fair Sex* ; by Madame de Maintenon : and *The Polite Tutors* ; both published by Mr. Cooke, in Pater-noster Row. They are equally useful for the mistress and the scholar, and most excellent books for female schools in general.

L E T T E R CCIX.

From a Gentleman to a Lady, who had gone Home late the Night before, from a Visit.

Dear Madam,

AS I know the delicacy of your frame and constitution, I have been greatly concerned about you during the whole night, and could not deny myself the satisfaction of enquiring into the state of your health this morning. I am sorry that we detained you so long, and have been uneasy ever since, lest the breaking in upon your hours of rest should have disordered you. You will therefore be pleased to send me word by the bearer how you slept, as I hope to find you have not suffered by our pressing you to stay so late. Health, precarious as your's, should be most particularly attended to, and especially as the good and happiness of many depends on its preservation and continuance; and, among the rest, those of

Your most obedient humble servant, &c. &c.

L E T T E R CCX.

The Answer.

S I R,

YOUR kind care and concern for my health demand my sincerest acknowledgments, which you will be pleased to accept, with my assurance that I find myself this morning extremely well, and free from the least inconvenience imaginable, though I sat up very much beyond my usual hour. I possess a due sense of the compliments you pay me in your very respectful letter; and the less I deserve, the more you merit at my hands. The indifferent state of my health is frequently troublesome to my friends; and if there remain any means beyond the reach of physic, I am determined to attempt them, that I may be the better disposed to enjoy their company and conversation, as my chief pleasure, and greatest delight.

I am, Sir, your much obliged,

and very humble servant.

L E T.

L E T T E R CCXI.

From a Gentleman to a Lady, requesting her to accept of Tickets for a Concert.

Madam,

FROM the specimens with which you have honoured me, of your skill both in vocal and instrumental music, I am persuaded you will derive singular pleasure by being present at a concert, in which several of the most eminent masters and first fingers are engaged to perform. You will therefore permit me the honour of sending you my tickets for Saturday next, of which, if you have no particular engagement, I request your acceptance; if otherwise, I must desire your commands for some future occasion, it being only every other Saturday we receive them. I should be happy if your engagements would permit you to be with us at the ensuing concert, as you will have an opportunity of hearing a very great master lately arrived, who has promised us a solo on the violin. There is a peculiar grace and niceness of finger in this performer, that must please you extremely, who are so excellent a judge; and I must confess I could wish for your concurrence in opinion, with, Madam,
Your very obedient humble servant.

L E T T E R CCXII.

The Lady's Answer, supposing her to be engaged.

S I R,

THE very polite letter with which you favoured me, and the obliging manner in which you request my acceptance of the tickets, do me equal honour and pleasure, and call for a most respectful acknowledgment. I am only unhappy, that by a prior engagement with a party that leave town the day following, I am prevented from attending the concert that evening; and as I know the value of the tickets, return them by the bearer, that you may have an opportunity of obliging other ladies who may be more fortunately circumstanced than myself. Upon any future occasion.

I shall most thankfully embrace the offer, as I have a very great desire of hearing this eminent master, as well as convincing you how much I am,

Your obliged humble servant.

L E T T E R CCXIII.

To a Lady, inviting her to a Party of Pleasure.

Dear Madam,

FROM your jocular, affable, agreeable temper and disposition, those who invite you to be of a party, may be looked upon as interested in the same, because you are sure to give more pleasure than you can possibly receive upon the occasion. This may be urged indeed with truth, as a reason for your non-compliance at times with the pressing entreaties of your friends; but it is the undoubted cause of their numerous and repeated invitations. After you left us last night, a gentleman in company proposed an expedition to Windsor on Saturday next, and desired me (as he had no claim to such a liberty) to acquaint you that you was included in the party, though absent when the matter was started.

Pursuant to my commission then, I take upon me to solicit the very great favour of your company, provided that you are disengaged, and the weather will permit. I need not intimate to you what will be the general opinion if you are absent, any more than the general pleasure that will attend your being present; so that I have only to entreat you will not think of an apology, and subscribe myself, with the greatest sincerity, dear Madam,

Your most obedient servant.

L E T T E R CCXIV.

The Answer.

S I R,

I Return you thanks for the many compliments you are pleased to pass upon me in your very polite letter of invitation. Your including me in your agreeable

able party, though absent when proposed, does me honour; and I should have been unhappy in missing an opportunity that I am persuaded will afford me infinite pleasure and satisfaction. I rejoice that no prior engagement will excuse me, and propose calling on you to-morrow to know the hour. I was very much taken with the gentleman's conversation who sat next to you; I think him very agreeable, though you will be sure not to tell him so. My compliments to your spouse, and assure her, I have never failed of being happy where she has been of the party; and as this is not always the case with all people, it must, in a great degree, be placed to her account. Present my respects where due, and believe me to be,

Your friend and servant.

L E T T E R CCXV.

Congratulating a Friend on the Acquisition of a considerable Fortune.

Dear Sir,

AMONGST the numerous train that will doubtless present their congratulatory respects on your new fortune, I am certain not one could hear of the event with more real pleasure than myself. There are two essential causes for joy, as the world will have a double interest in it. The estate has fallen from an unworthy to a worthy possessor, who has the will and power of doing a number of generous actions he could not do before; and I shall have the happiness of rejoicing, with many an honest fellow, to whom he will do them. I am sensible I shall find you the same man as ever, as I know you have more resolution than to be changed in disposition or conduct by any incident in life. I am,

Your's as ever.

L E T.

L E T T E R CCXVI.

*To a Person who had overreached an unexperienced
Servant.*

Mr. John,

I Must be very plain with you, on a matter that nearly concerns your character, as it does that of a poor lad, whom as a relation I cannot but wish well. Harry, Lady Seymour's servant, informs me that you inveigled him to play, and that having lost more than he could answer from his own stock, he made up the rest out of some money that belonged to his lady. Now as this is the case, I must insist upon your immediately returning, if not the whole, that part which is the lady's property, as Harry will certainly be called to account for the same; and if he cannot produce it, be discharged for breach of trust, and what is worse, want a recommendation in future. Besides the affair must reach your master's notice if it is not directly prevented, and then you have sense enough to know what will be the consequence. I must beg of you to attend to this advice, as well as to avoid any necessity for the same on a future occasion, and shall take care to chastise Mr. Harry very severely for his folly.

Your's, as you behave.

L E T T E R CCXVII.

*From the Person to the Servant whom he had overreached,
acknowledging the Fault and desiring to make Amends.*

Mr. Harry,

MR. James Upright, my Lord Noble's butler, and your relation, applied to me about the matter that passed between us the other day when your Lady came to visit at our house, and represented to me how bad a thing I had done in receiving your mistress's money in part of payment for what I had won of you at cards; and I was immediately convinced, and promised not only to refund that, but the whole of what I had won, as I confessed you was wholly ignorant of the game. If you will call on me the first opportunity I will fulfil my promise, and give you any satisfaction
you

you may require. I desire you would keep the affair secret, as its being known might ruin me; and I pledge my word I will neither ask you to play, or play with you more as long as I live.

I am your well-wisher, &c.

L E T T E R CCXVIII.

From a Gentleman in Town, inviting a Person out of the Country into his Service.

John,

WHEN I was upon a visit at Basingstoke, I took particular notice of your behaviour in your station in the family, and should be very glad to employ you in town, provided it will be agreeable to you to leave the country. You gave me such satisfaction, that I could wish of all things to have you with me, and will make your place as comfortable and profitable as possible. Whenever I come down into Hampshire, you shall be sure to attend me, so that you will have frequent opportunities of seeing your friends. In London nothing shall be required of you but what you can do with ease, and every indulgence shall be shewn you that can be deemed reasonable. So that if my proposal is agreeable, I desire you will set off as soon as you conveniently can.

I am your friend to serve you.

L E T T E R CCXIX.

From the Country Person, in Answer to the former.

Good Sir,

I Am very much obliged to you for the offer you was pleased to make me in your very kind letter; but though I have not a doubt of the advantages I might make of your place in town, I must beg leave to decline it. As you was so very good as to write to me with your own hand, I think it my duty to give you as good reasons as I can why I would wish to stay where I am. I live in the neighbourhood where I was born, it is a healthy spot and agrees with my constitution; I have

been long in my present service, and my master and mistress are the best in the country, and I am treated more like a son than a servant. There may be advantages to be gained by living in London, but then there are great temptations: We hear of nothing but wickedness in large families, and misfortunes will be answerable to it; whereas in the country, for the general, we live in peace and credit. For these and many other reasons too tedious to trouble you with, I must beg leave to desire that you would not press me to change my situation; and that though I could not accept of your place, I may have the pleasure of waiting on you as usual when you come down.

I am, good Sir, your dutiful and obedient servant.

Suitable Directions for Addressing PERSONS of all RANKS.

TO the King's Most Excellent Majesty, *Sire, or, May it please your Majesty.*

To his Royal Highness George, Prince of Wales, *Sir, or, May it please your Royal Highness.*

In the same manner to the rest of the Royal Family.

To the Nobility.

To his Grace the Duke of S. *My Lord Duke, or, May it please your Grace, or, Your Grace,*

To the Most Noble the Marquis of H. *My Lord Marquis, your Lordship.*

To the Right Honourable the Earl of B. *My Lord, your Lordship.*

To the Right Honourable the Lord Viscount D. *My Lord, your Lordship.*

To the Right Honourable the Lord F. *My Lord, your Lordship.*

The Sons of Dukes, Marquises, and the eldest Sons of Earls, have the title of *Lord* and *Right Honourable*; and the Title of *Lady* is given to their Daughters.

The younger Sons of Earls, the Sons of Viscounts, and Barons, are stiled *Esquires*, and *Honourable*, and all their Daughters *Honourable*.

The Title of *Honourable* is likewise conferred on such Persons as have the King's Commission, and upon those Gentlemen who enjoy Places of Trust and Honour.

The Title of *Right Honourable* is given to no Commoner, excepting those who are Members of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and the three Lord Mayors of *London, York, and Dublin*, and the Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, during their Office.

To

To the Parliament.

To the Right Honourable the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled, *My Lords*, or, *May it please your Lordships*.

To the Right Hon. Sir F. N. Speaker of the House of Commons.

To the Clergy.

To the Most Reverend the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, *My Lord*, or, *Your Grace*.

To the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of S. *My Lord*.

To the Reverend the Dean of C. or Archdeacon, or Chancellor of D. or Prebendary, &c. *Mr. Dean*, *Reverend Sir*, &c.

All Rectors, Vicars, Curates, Lecturers, and Clergymen of other inferior Denominations, are stiled *Reverend*.

To the Officers of his Majesty's Household.

They are for the most part addressed according to their Rank and Quality, though sometimes agreeable to the Nature of their Office; as, *My Lord Steward*, *My Lord Chamberlain*, *Mr. Vice-Chamberlain*, &c. and in all Superscriptions of Letters, which relate to Gentlemen's Employments, their Stile of Office should never be omitted; and if they have more Offices than one, you need mention only the highest.

To the Soldiers and Navy.

To the Hon. A. B. Esq; Lieutenant-General, Major-General, Brigadier-General of his Majesty's Forces, *Sir*, *Your Honour*.

To the Right Honourable the E. of S. Captain of his Majesty's first Troop of Horse-Guards, Band of Gentlemen Pensioners, Band of Yeomen of the Guards, &c. *My Lord*, *Your Lordship*.

All Colonels are stiled Honourable; all inferior Officers should have the Name of their Employment set first; as for Example, To Major W. C. to Captain T. H. &c.

In the Navy all Admirals are stiled *Honourable*, and Noblemen according to Quality and Office. The other Officers as in the Army.

To the Ambassadors, Secretaries, and Consuls.

All Ambassadors have the Title of *Excellency* added to their Quality, as have also Plenipotentiaries, foreign Governors, and the Lord Lieutenant and Lord Justices of Ireland.

To his Excellency Sir B. C. Baronet, his Britannic Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Ottoman Port, *Sir*, *Your Excellency*.

To his Excellency E. F. Esq; Ambassador to his Most Christian Majesty, *Sir*, or, *Your Excellency*.

To his Excellency the Baron d'A. his Prussian Majesty's Resident at the Court of Great-Britain, *Sir*, *Your Excellency*.

To Seignior W. C. Secretary from the Republic of Venice, *Sir*.

To G. H. Esq; his Britannic Majesty's Consul at Smyrna, *Sir*.

To the Judges and Lawyers.

All the Judges, if Privy-Counsellors, are stiled *Right Honourable*; as for Instance:

To the Right Honourable A. B. Lord High Chancellor of Great-Britain, *My Lord*, *Your Lordship*.

To

To the Right Honourable P. V. Master of the Rolls, *Sir, Your Honour.*

To the Right Hon. Sir G. L. Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, or of the Common Pleas, *My Lord, Your Lordship.*

To the Honourable A. B. Lord Chief Baron, *Sir, or, May it please you, Sir.*

To the Right Hon. A. D. Esq; one of the Justices, or to Judge T. *Sir, or, May it please you, Sir.*

To Sir R. D. his Majesty's Attorney, Solicitor, or Advocate General, *Sir.*

All others in the Law, according to the Offices and Rank they bear, every Barrister having the Title of *Esquire* given him.

To the Lieutenantcy and Magistracy.

To the Right Honourable G. Earl of C. Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Durham, *My Lord, Your Lordship.*

To the Right Honourable B. C. Esq; Lord Mayor of the City of London, *My Lord, Your Lordship.*

All Gentlemen in the Commission of the Peace have the Titles of *Esquire* and *Worshipful*, as have also all Sheriffs and Recorders.

The Aldermen and Recorder of London are stiled *Right Worshipful*, as are all Mayors of Corporations, except Lord Mayors.

To P. S. Esq; High Sheriff of the County of York, *Sir, Your Worship.*

To the Right Worshipful S. T. Esq; Alderman of Tower Ward, London, *Sir, Your Worship.*

To the Right Worshipful J. A. Recorder of the City of London, *Sir, Your Worship.*

The Governors of Hospitals, Colleges, &c. which consist of Magistrates, or have any such among them, are stiled *Right Worshipful*, or *Worshipful*, as their Titles allow.

To the Governors of the Crown.

To his Excellency G. Lord S. Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, *My Lord, Your Excellency.*

To the Right Honourable C. Earl of D. Governor of Devon-Castle, &c. *My Lord, Your Lordship.*

The second Governors of Colonies appointed by the King, are called Lieutenant-Governors.

Those appointed by Proprietors, as the East-India Company, &c. are stiled Deputy-Governors.

To Incorporate Bodies.

To the Honourable Court of Directors of the United Company of Merchants trading to the East-Indies, *Your Honours.*

To the Honourable the Sub-Governor, Deputy-Governors, and Directors of the South-Sea Company, *Your Honours.*

To the Honourable the Governor, Deputy-Governor, and Directors of the Bank of England, *Your Honours.*

To the Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Mercers.

CARDS OF COMPLIMENT.

CARDS of compliment should be short, easy, and consistent with politeness. They must begin with the title or stile of the writer—and care must be taken immediately after to mention, in a respectful manner, the stile or title of those to whom they are addressed; they must contain but one subject, and that should be expressed with elegance and perspicuity.

MISS SPRIGHTLY's respectful compliments to Lady Tissue, entreats the honour of her company this afternoon to a dish of tea.

Monday Morn.

LADY TISSUE's compliments to Miss Sprightly, is happy to accept her agreeable invitation.

Monday Noon.

MRS. FLEMING's compliments to Miss Dyson, hopes she got safe home, and is in health, after the fatigue of sitting up so late.

Friday Morn.

MISS DYSON's compliments to Mrs. Fleming, got home perfectly safe, and is extremely well; returns respectful thanks for her obliging enquiries.

Friday 2 o'Clock.

LORD SPANGLE's compliments to Sir James Brilliant, should esteem it as a favour to be obliged with his company to take an airing to Kew—the chariot to be at the door at three.

Thursday Noon.

SIR JAMES BRILLIANT's respectful compliments to Lord Spangle—will be happy to attend his Lordship punctually at the time.

Thursday 1 o'Clock.

MISS GUITTAR's compliments, should be glad of Miss Spinnet's company to pick a bit of dinner with her.

Wednesday 8 o'Clock.

MISS SPINNET's compliments, will not fail to wait upon Miss Guittar.

Wednesday 10 o'Clock.

MRS. SHADEWELL's compliments to Miss Cloudy, should be glad of her agreeable company to pass the afternoon.

10 o'Clock Morn.

MISS CLOUDY's compliments to Mrs. Shadwell, cannot have the pleasure of accepting her agreeable invitation, being engaged in a party to Cox's Museum.

11 o'Clock Morn.

LORD HAIRBRAIN's compliments to Mr. Sparrow, should be glad of his company in the evening to Vauxhall.

Thursday 4 o'Clock.

MR. SPARROW's respectful compliments to Lord Hairbrain, must deny himself the pleasure of attending his Lordship, being already engaged in a party to Ranelagh.

Thursday 5 o'Clock.

A
T R E A T I S E
O N T H E
A R T O F O R A T O R Y.

ORATORY, or the art of speaking with ease, elegance, and persuation, may be considered in two distinct points of view :

First, as referring to the subject matter, stile, and composition of what we intend to deliver, which is considered as the theory.

Secondly, as referring to the peculiar mode of delivery, or the practice of the art.

With respect to the first part, as it refers to the subject matter, stile, and composition of what we intend to deliver, as the theory of the art, there are two necessary aids, which may be called concomitant, or sister arts : these are LOGIC and RHETORIC.

LOGIC is the art of reasoning, generally considered ; but it particularly comprizes INVENTION, ARGUMENT, and DISPOSITION ; it teaches us to detect falshood as certain truth, and bring any theme, or subject, into an uniform, plain, and comprehensive point of view.

It is the peculiar department of INVENTION, to find out either such subjects, or such remarks upon any given subject, as may tend to persuade, to please,

or to improve the auditors, which should be the grand and ultimate design of all public speakers.

ARGUMENT, which is one of the most essential branches of logic, and considered as the art of reasoning in general, we would take the liberty of dividing into two heads: first, PLAIN OR GENUINE; secondly, ABSTRUSE and SOPHISTICAL.

First, plain or genuine arguments, are such as are bereft of all art; they state acknowledged positions, and infer from them necessary and self-evident deductions.

Abstruse, or sophistical arguments, tend to bewilder and divert the mind from a due attention to the main point, and from a position known by the speaker to be erroneous, infer a deduction, though logically right, really false; thereby obtaining the assent of the less judicious and discerning to the point, or side of the question, he would wish to carry.

The third and last particular comprized under this head, is what is called DISPOSITION; the peculiar department of which is to arrange the whole speech, or oration, in due form, from the exordium, or beginning, to the conclusion; as respecting the narrative, the arguments, and the inference, and sometimes [but more frequently in discourses from the pulpit] the application of the whole subject, to the belief, or practice, of the audience.

Another branch or necessary appendage to oratory, is rhetoric. In many treatises on this subject, we find the one confounded with the other; whereas they are as distinct as theory and practice, to which they respectively and immediately refer.

We are not to be taught that the phrase, or term, RHETORIC, is derived from a Greek word, which signifies TO SPEAK; but that it implies speaking, according to the precise meaning of the term, not literally, or vocally, but by type and figure; as a part of the theory, and not of the practice of oratory, and refers to the formation of speech alone.

RHETORIC is the ornamental part of a speech, and though admissible and beautiful in some prosaic subjects of the sublime kind, is more generally and forcibly

bly introduced in poetical compositions. It is divided into two parts, **TROPES** and **FIGURES**.—A trope, so called from a Greek word, signifying to turn, is a picturesque manner of changing a word, or term, from its simple and original, to an enlarged and emblematical signification; and is introduced with peculiar propriety in the pathetic and descriptive parts of an oration, realizing thereby as it were, to the imagination, the very form of the object thus delineated. For the number and names, as well as properties of these tropes, we must refer the reader to any treatise at large on that particular branch of oratory, as we only mean to point it out as an article included in the general system. We shall therefore only add, that tropes in rhetoric serve to embellish a composition, as well as add a dignity; which seems to have given birth to the common phrase, “the flowers of rhetoric.”

By figures in this branch is to be understood, a powerful and descriptive display of expression, without varying from the simple and original signification of words, and yet soaring beyond the common and ordinary stile of diction; and it is used to enliven, diversify, and enforce the subject under consideration.

The figures of speech so called are numerous, for the particulars of which we refer as before-mentioned; observing, that a due attention to the practical and most essential parts of public speaking, will obviate the necessity of burthening the memory with a variety of hard terms, the precise meaning of which will tend to very little effect, in the delivery of an oration.

Having briefly treated on the particulars relative to the first part, which includes the theory of the art of oratory, or public speaking, we proceed to the second, which, though more important, may be more easily acquired, viz. the practical part, or mode of delivery.

This depends upon two material points, **VOICE** and **ACTION**. The former implies distinct pronunciation and flexibility of tone; the latter grace, ease, and propriety of gesture. Now where there are a good voice and pleasing form, the work is half accomplished; and pains and attention, with a moderate degree

gree of erudition, will, as they have heretofore done, produce a very respectable public speaker.

With regard to sound, which depends on the organs of speech, where there appears to be no natural defect or impediment in their frame, the speaker has full power of pronunciation; which is a distinct and articulate expression, not only of every word, but every syllable, of what he professes publicly to deliver.

Now in this case it is essentially necessary to attend minutely to *ACCENT*, or laying a stress in point of sound, upon a particular syllable of a word; nay, a just pronunciation requires that every letter should have its proper sound, as well as every syllable its proper accent. Besides, with respect to accents, it is universally evident, that they often affect the very meaning and signification of words; for though many words may be nearly alike in sound, while they differ in sense; yet there are also others where the sound is the distinguishing mark, while in spelling they are uniformly agreed; so that if the accenting is not particularly observed, the sense must be totally perverted.

EMPHASIS is that with respect to words, which accent is with respect to syllables, being a peculiar stress of voice, laid on some particular word, or words, in a sentence, to render the sense more striking. We may with propriety add *WORDS*, as sometimes it so falls out, from the peculiar nature of the subject, that two or more words are emphatical in the same sentence, and those immediately connected.

It is in the power of the speaker to convey to the audience very different meanings from the same sentence, or passage, by varying the emphasis, in repeating it three or four times; or totally subvert the sense, by false and injudicious emphasis throughout the whole.

FLEXIBILITY, or command of the tones, is also another requisite to form an orator, or good public speaker. It is frequently said of persons, with respect to speaking as well as singing, that they have no ear, and consequently, though they possess good voices, they generally send forth discordant and inharmonious tones. Some indeed may be said to have but one tone,
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which, though it might be pleasing in some particular instances, or agreeably introduced in concert with others, by one perpetual sameness, called *MONOTONY*, like the striking of a key upon a warming-pan, tires the ears, and destroys the feelings of the audience.

There are two particulars by which the *MODULATION* of the *VOICE*, or, in other words, the *FLEXIBILITY* of the *TONES* should be principally guided. These are an attention to the points, or stops, which are as essential in speaking our own thoughts, as in reading or delivering those of others; and, above all, a strict regard to the impulse of the *PASSIONS*, as they strike us in the ordinary occurrences of life, and the common intercourse we hold with mankind.

As the particular pauses should mark the particular parts of a sentence, so likewise should the particular tones of the voice; and there may be a kind of gradual declension in the last division of a sentence, which though hardly observable at the first word, will terminate the whole in a fall of voice perceptible to all who have any ear; and this is what is termed marking the period, or full stop (.).

The point of interrogation (?) which denotes a question proposed, demands that the voice should be raised. Notes of admiration, exclamation, &c. (!) require sometimes a rapid and elevated, sometimes a slow and solemn tone, which the judgment of the speaker must adapt to the subject.

The last mark we shall instance, and in which public speakers err more than in any others, is the parenthesis, marked thus (). This part of a sentence, as always secondary in point of importance, (as well as frequently digressive from the main subject) should ever be delivered in a tone perceptibly lower than the rest, and with a greater degree of rapidity, but lesser of energy; though the more this mark is avoided the better. So much for the doctrine of points, or stops, their use in composition, and the effect they should have on the modulation of the voice in public speaking.

The next important particular is a strict and un-deviating attention to the impulse of the passions, as they naturally affect the human mind in the ordinary

occurrences of life, and the common intercourse we hold with mankind.

A competent degree of understanding, joined to an assiduous study of human nature, will be the best guides in this most essential part of elocution. An ingenious and elaborate writer, as well as striking example of the art and power of oratory, lays it down as an invariable maxim, that he who would move others, must at least appear to be moved himself. Without exciting this sympathy, the speaker can never reach the heart of the hearer; the orator must attract the fellow-feelings of his audience, as sensibly, irresistibly, and effectually, as the loadstone attracts the steel, or he will never speak to any real purpose respecting either himself or them; his efforts will be as vain as their attendance, and all that has been said will vanish into immediate oblivion; or according to the vulgar phrase, it will enter at one ear and go out at the other.

Now how is this sympathy so necessary to effect the main purposes of public speaking, to be raised in the breasts of the audience? Either by appealing to the judgment or the passions distinctly, or to both at one and the same time. To do this, the orator by his whole manner of composition, delivery and gesture, must strikingly appear to his hearers fully possessed in his own mind of the propriety, justice and importance of the subject he would recommend, as worthy of their notice, regard, belief or practice.

The last material point we shall notice, respecting the practical part of oratory, is an elegant, easy, and proper deportment, generally defined under the idea of action or gesture. This must depend upon the good sense and discretion of the speaker; and if he knows in what degree to apply it, he cannot possibly err any more than in point of pronunciation and modulation of tone.

As a sameness in action is as disagreeable and tiresome to the spectator, as a sameness of sound is to the auditor, it should be as carefully avoided in the gesture of the orator, which should be varied according to the subject, and the different passions and emotions of the mind.

To render the gesture easy, elegant, and at the same time striking, it may be necessary to observe the attitudes in the various passions, as displayed by the most eminent painters and statuaries, and to imitate as far as ease and propriety will admit, their models; and if those exercises were attended to, which form the body to graceful position and motion, it would not a little facilitate and accustom to an unaffected, though characteristic kind of gesture, that would not fail to add grace and dignity to the speaker.

These brief remarks are offered, as founded upon some degree of observation and experience: they may greatly assist, if they cannot complete those whose propensity may lead them to the cultivation of the art they respect; indeed, it is presumed it does not so much depend upon a set of principles laid down, as imitation of those who are admitted to excel. One of the best methods therefore, which can be recommended to those who wish to qualify themselves in this useful and ornamental accomplishment, is not only to observe with attention the rules laid down, but endeavour to imitate the manner and practice of the most finished orators, and follow them so far as they appear to follow Nature.

THE ART OF
PLEASING in CONVERSATION;
WITH
RULES AND MAXIMS
TO FORM THE
POLITE and ENTERTAINING COMPANION.

AS Mankind are peculiarly distinguished from the rest of the Creation by the singular endowments of reason and speech, so are they adapted to the offices of humanity, and the refined pleasures of social intercourse.

Intense study and application may greatly tend to the accomplishment of the mind; but to form the manners, and render us agreeable to one another, requires a knowledge of men and things that is not to be obtained by poring over books in a closet, but abroad in the world, through just and necessary reflections. Books indeed may furnish many useful remarks, but they will serve only as a kind of theory; so that there must be a practical observation upon mankind compared with those remarks, to fix the true point of knowledge in this particular.

To render us respectable in a social light, the accomplishments of the mind must be heightened and set off to advantage by proper ornaments of the body, and the attractive graces of deportment and behaviour.

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An eminent degree of sense and learning, doubtless, entitle the possessors to an honourable regard; but to conciliate general esteem, there must be added affability and good humour.

The requisites to complete the character of a gentleman, as it respects exterior qualifications, have been defined under various terms; such as good breeding, genteel behaviour, politeness, complaisance, and others of the like kind; but, upon reflection, they will appear almost synonymous, and to import, in general, a desire to please in all our words and actions, without the violation of any moral duty.

Good breeding cannot be acquired by any means so effectually, as a knowledge of the world, and frequenting polite company. It is not a stated form or mode of behaviour, because it consists in a due conformity of words and actions, to circumstances, persons, and places. A well-bred man will become all things to all men; that is, he will adapt his mode of behaviour to the different manners and customs of the world, as chance may lead him to be engaged with mankind in social connexion; but without transgressing the bounds of decorum.

This necessary qualification will be found very useful, in fixing the due bound of what is called familiarity; which, though justly authorized on principles of friendship, has frequently weakened and destroyed the same, by an illiberal indulgence. The rules of good breeding not only connect, but cement the social ties, restrain licentiousness of converse, and promote universal decorum. A man may acquire fame from genius, respect from merit, and esteem from learning; but with all these qualifications, if he is not well-bred, he will not, he cannot be beloved, which to the generous mind is the greatest happiness.

Politeness is a system of behaviour polished by good breeding, and disposes us on all occasions to render ourselves agreeable. If it does not constitute merit, it shews it to advantage, as it equally regulates that manner of speaking and acting, which convey grace, and command respect. To be truly polite, we must endeavour to speak in the most obliging terms, and be-

have in the most graceful manner; so that it requires a strict attention to our words and actions to render others not only satisfied with us, but what is of more importance, with themselves. A kind look, or obliging word from a person in a superior station particularly, is very engaging, and cannot fail to procure general approbation, respect and esteem.

It may not be unnecessary here to remark, that tho' the art of pleasing is deemed of so much consequence, it is of much more to know how to please without any art at all; that is, to acquire an easy, elegant method of setting off our words and actions, without the least apparent precision, stiffness, or affectation. Nothing disgusts so much as affectation; nor is any character more contemptible than a would-be polite or fashionable man, without one necessary qualification for the same.

The grounds which form a polite character are the same in all countries, though they are universally subject to local custom; and custom differs in every country; therefore a due occasional conformity, must depend on a competent knowledge of the world. It may not then be improper nor foreign to our present design, to consider some particulars in which this essential science consists, as introductory to what we have to offer briefly to the younger part of our readers, concerning the becoming art of pleasing in conversation; and those rules which call for their observation and practice, in order to form the polite and agreeable companion.

If it is asked by what means is the knowledge of the world or of mankind to be obtained? The concise and general reply, is, observe, read, and learn. This study requires full as much attention and application as that of books, and perhaps more penetration, sagacity and discernment. It is necessary to look into people, as well as at them; the physiognomy may deceive the sight; but the actions cannot well deceive the understanding. To this purpose, we should search most minutely into the dispositions of those with whom we are connected, or frequently converse, in order to discover their prevailing inclinations, their virtues, vices, foibles, follies and humours; for every character in life
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has a mixture of these, which renders man a kind of mirror to himself.

There are many pre-requisites to our entrance on life, which should be acquired as early as possible; and which, though neglected amidst the volatile gaiety of youth, often appear to be of great importance in maturer years. The first of these, is to curb our own temper, and so effectually subject it to reason, as to prevent any inordinate fallies, that may prove disagreeable to others, and injurious to ourselves. This will produce a coolness of mind and serenity of countenance, that will disguise our sentiments on any subject or occasion, when it may be neither necessary or interesting to discover them. It is essential to the character of a man of sense and discretion, to hear disagreeable things without any visible tokens of offence and displeasure, as it is to hear pleasing things without bursts of joy and frantic distortions of the face. Where there is a propensity to violent emotions upon any sudden incident, whether pleasing or the contrary, a resolution should be formed to keep a profound silence, so long as its effects are perceived to influence the mind. To this it may be objected, that it is extremely difficult, if not, in some instances, absolutely impossible: but let it be remembered, that in points of which prudence and our own welfare dictate the pursuit, difficulty should animate, and not deter us from the arduous task, which once gained, will amply compensate our pains.

In order to form a right judgment in what manner particular circumstances may affect others, we must appeal to ourselves, or substitute ourselves for them and in their place. Mankind in general are much alike; and though one individual may be liable to one passion, and another to another, yet, if we attend closely to the point, we shall find, that whatever conciliates our esteem, or excites our aversion in others, will, vice versa, engage or disgust others in us. Indeed, the golden rule seems in a great measure to be founded upon this principle. Now, as this is the case, we have only to attend to the operations of our own minds, the effects of our own passions, and the motives which influence our own opinions and conduct, and that will
2 afford

afford us a very important lesson as to the knowledge of others, or what may be deemed the world in general, and be an excellent and infallible directory for our own behaviour.

Notwithstanding this general resemblance of mankind as to the particulars hinted at, yet each individual has his peculiarity; nor is any man at all times, or under all circumstances, like himself. A man of sense may do weak things; a proud man often does mean things; an honest man sometimes may do ill things, and a bad man has done good things: hence it follows, that judgment of character should not be formed from any particular circumstance or action, but the general tenor and conduct of life.

To appear ignorant, in many instances, argues a considerable degree of worldly knowledge; nay, it is often requisite and necessary. It is prudent to seem ignorant of all matters of private scandal and defamation; for the parties affected, consider the persons who listen to evil report in as odious a light as those who spread it; therefore, even where there is evidence, a doubt should be suggested, and the moderate side of the question espoused. At the same time that this affected ignorance is expedient, pains should be taken to investigate truth, especially in concerns wherein we are interested, or any for whom we may entertain a friendship or esteem; or such as affect the good of the public in general.

A conformity or flexibility of manners, so as to avoid evil both of a moral and political nature, is another instance of knowledge of the world. This consists in a turn of mind suitable to the dispositions of those with whom we occasionally converse. It can assume seriousness with the grave, cheerfulness with the gay, and futility with the frivolous and trifling; but the bounds of decorum, truth and virtue must not be exceeded, for then it becomes culpable and immoral. This is a summary of what is called the knowledge of the world.

We shall now proceed to lay down those rules and maxims that constitute the art of pleasing in conversation, and forming the polite and agreeable companion.

The grand and principal maxim to be observed, in order to render ourselves agreeable and entertaining in conversation, is to attend to the choice of words, and the nature of the subject in question.

We should be particularly careful to avoid giving offence, for there are no persons, though ever so insignificant and inconsiderable, but may, at some time or other, have it in their power to be of use to us ; which they will certainly decline, if they think we have once treated them with contempt. Men in general, wish to have their imperfections and weaknesses concealed ; and there is hardly a person who would not rather be thought a knave, than called a fool.

There is a foible to which young men are particularly liable, and which should be as particularly avoided. There is a desire of exposing the foibles and infirmities of their companions, either for the sake of diverting the company, or shewing their own superiority. By this means we may raise a laugh with us for the moment, but it will create us enemies ever after ; and even those who laugh with us, will, upon reflection, fear and despise us. Besides, it argues ill-nature ; for a good heart, and benevolent disposition, rather desire to conceal, than expose the weaknesses of others ; and if we have wit, it is our duty and interest to use it to entertain and please, not to disgust and offend.

If we may judge of others by ourselves, we should not so far avail ourselves of a superiority of parts or understanding, as to make a person, whose good-will, good word, interest, esteem, and friendship we would gain or retain, sensible of that superiority. If we feel by experience, that disagreeable insinuations, sly sneers, or repeated contradictions, tease and irritate us ; can we be so idle as to imagine, that by introducing them we can engage and please others ? A smart repartee, a witty thought, a double entendre, or *Bon Mot*, though they may meet with a malicious applause, make more implacable enemies than people are aware of ; who, if they have any regard for themselves, will abolish them for their conversation, especially such as are personal.

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It is the height of folly, if not of madness, to lose a friend for a jest; and it argues a most presumptive vanity, to make an enemy of an indifferent person, for the sake of a *Bon Mot*.

If you would wish to gain the good-will of particular people, of either sex, endeavour to discover their chief merit on the one hand, and most prevailing foible on the other; do justice to the former, but expose not the latter, to which you may be assured there is the strongest attachment; on which they would rather be complimented, than those points wherein they really excel.

To the ladies we would recommend good-humour, truth, and affability in conversation; and, above all, a steadfast regard to modesty, as well in words as behaviour; for levity of talk injures a female character, as much as levity of conduct. It should therefore be their concern, as it is their interest, to keep the sprightliness of their wit and fancy within due bounds, lest it degenerate into an unbecoming and ungraceful levity.

Speaking loud, or proclaiming things that have ambiguous meanings, seem rather inconsistent with that modesty and discretion, which, by the respectable part of the world, are regarded as the ornaments of the sex, to the foiling of which there are many temptations.

So far from excluding the ladies from conversation, every ingenuous, liberal man, must be convinced, that their good manners and agreeable tempers, tend greatly to heighten and improve it; and it has been very justly observed, that where conversation between the sexes has been debarred, the one lost their taste, and the other their manners.

In public company, prolixity, or too many words, should be avoided; few, and to the purpose, will redound more to credit and esteem. Impertinent and lavish talking is an unbecoming habit, and instead of heightening, obstructs the pleasure and improvement of society.

The grand supports and ornaments of conversation, that render it at once shining and improving to the parties in general, are politeness, candour, sound sense, and inflexible virtue. These qualities united produce
an

an admirable effect, by maintaining its decency, preserving its freedom, affording it spirit and variety, and rendering it perfectly harmonious and consonant throughout the whole.

There are people so vain of their talents, as to be disposed to mimic others in company, who may have the misfortune of some remarkable defect in person, voice or manners; this may please the frothy and frivolous, but those of candour and ingenuity of mind, will censure the performer as culpably illiberal and ill mannerly.

In company and conversation an awkward bashfulness should be shunned and avoided, because it raises an unfavourable prejudice against the person who suffers it to prevail; and those who either speak themselves, or are addressed by others, should look them full in the face, which may be done without a rude and ungracious stare.

Stooping in young persons particularly, as well as inclining the eyes to the ground, argues meanness on the one hand, and ignorance on the other; therefore they should endeavour to maintain an erect deportment and countenance, but without the mixture of impertinence or affectation.

To merit and obtain respect in conversation, we should observe our turn, nor seem desirous of engrossing that share of time and words to which others have a just claim. If we think to display our abilities, and procure regard, by talking much more than the rest of the company, we are palpably wrong; because this affected superiority, cannot fail to prejudice them against us, for every individual has some degree of pride and emulation. Those who speak modestly and to the purpose, will ensure approbation; and the more they appear to conceal their talents, with the greater eclat will they shine forth.

It is necessary and proper to adapt the subject and manner of our discourse to the temper and disposition of those we converse with, otherwise we can never command either attention or respect.

Interrupting others in the midst of a relation of any kind, is a flagrant breach of politeness; but if a pause should

should give the opportunity, an objection may be started consistently with the rules of good manners.

Those who introduce oaths, references, solemn appeals and protestations, instead of enforcing will invalidate their arguments, as they cannot fail to raise suspicions in the minds of the hearers; who will doubt the truth of what is attempted in such manner to be imposed on their belief.

EGOTISM, or a perpetual introduction of self, and the emphatic pronoun I, argues an intolerable vanity, and is odious, fulsome and disgusting; for conceit is of all characters the most contemptible; and it may be further added, of those who are continually holding forth in self-commendation, that if ever they change the nauseous subject, it is to abuse and vilify their neighbours.

It is a common but just remark, "that a close tongue argues a wise head;" nor is any thing more commendable, than to know when to speak and when to be silent. That trite saying, "The truth is not to be spoken at all times," is equally just and worthy of notice; nor does sincerity always require us to speak our opinions; discretion in this point therefore should be our directory. An inviolable regard should be had to secrecy in all matters of importance, the divulging of which may be attended with most injurious consequences to ourselves, and those with whom we may be connected. Flying reports, vague surmises, and dull tales, ever disgust in company, and incur the imputation of vanity, folly, and impertinence.

To sum up the whole; let it be our care and study in every sphere of life, to maintain and preserve a decency and propriety in our manners, dress, words and actions. Good sense and observation will point out to us a line of conduct, founded on the invariable principles of reason; the which, if we pursue, will secure us the approbation of our own minds, and the universal respect and esteem of those with whom we converse and are connected in social life.

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